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THE TIMES

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BEST FOR SPORT

STEVE MCMANAMAN: WHY GLENN HODDLE WAS RIGHT TO DROP ME

PAGE 45

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

11 pages

REVENGE!

THE WIFE WHO SUED THE OTHER WOMAN

MAGAZINE

TARZAN GOES PC

A New Man in the jungle

PAGE 5

BEST FOR EDUCATION

THE TOP 700 SCHOOLS AT GCSE

PAGE 8

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PLUS: WEEKEND, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS

Marlene Dietrich forgiven by the Germans

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

MARLENE DIETRICH, the husky-voiced, long-legged vamp from *The Blue Angel*, has been rehabilitated in Germany after years of controversy over her wartime support for the Allies.

Overcoming fierce opposition, the Tiergarten District Council in Berlin has decided to use the actress's name for a square being built as part of the Potsdamer Platz. The move coincides with the issue of a Marlene Dietrich postage stamp and marks a long overdue tribute from the city where she grew up.

A film museum in Potsdamer Platz — soon to be the heart of Berlin — will display memorabilia. Her daughter, Maria Riva, has given 680 cases of her's belongings, including costumes and high-heeled shoes.

The resistance to honouring Dietrich came mainly from older Germans who never forgave her for performing for Allied soldiers and returning to Berlin wearing an immaculate American uniform. She had left Berlin for Hollywood in 1930. Joseph Goebbels tried to woo her back but she took American citizenship in 1939. She was awarded the US Medal of Freedom and was made a Foreign Legion colonel.

Her sister was married to a cinema owner near Belsen but Dietrich never had any illusions about the Nazi regime. As the singer of *Lili Marlene* — with its distinctive opening line *Underneath the lantern, by the barrack gate* — she turned a German war song into the unofficial whistling tune of the British forces in North Africa.

Her supporters in Berlin argue that it was high time for a Marlene Dietrich Platz because she was in effect, a resistance fighter. "She donated a great deal of money to help Jews escape," a city spokesman, said.

But it has taken the best part of five years to persuade Berliners to give ground. After spending her last years in Paris, she died at the age of 90 and was buried in Berlin in 1992. Elderly Germans remember her return in 1960 when crowds held up placards saying: "Marlene, go home."

Dietrich: returns to Berlin in US uniform

Boys trounced in Times results table

Girls' school shatters GCSE record

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

EIGHTY pupils from St Paul's Girls' School, in London, have produced Britain's best exam performance, smashing GCSE records as girls again swept the board in *The Times* league table of state and independent schools.

Some 95 per cent of St Paul's Girls' entries were awarded an A* or A grade. More than 60 per cent reached the coveted A*, compared with the national average of 3.6 per cent. The school easily beat its own record, set last year, of 88 per cent A grades. Only one girl in one subject dropped below the equivalent of the old O level and all but two of the 675 entries were marked at grade B or above.

Celebrating her school's second successive triumph in the GCSE table, Janet Gough, St Paul's High Mistress, said the girls had done wonderfully well and were capable of making a mark at any level. St Paul's girls take fewer than nine GCSE subjects each on average, compared with more than ten per pupil at the foundation's boys' school and many like it.

Girls' schools filled all the top six places in *The Times* table, and 20 of the top 30. Their domination was even more complete than in previous years and will reopen the debates on boys' relative under-performance and the apparent advantages of single-sex education.

Jackie Lang, president of the Girls' Schools' Association, said: "I am thrilled because girls just seem to be on a high at the moment. Maybe it's girl power. I don't think that [our] girls are particularly motivated by the Spice Girls, but they obviously are full of confidence and feel that the world is their oyster."

"Forget Eton, put him down for St Paul's girls"

Mrs Lang said: "People used to say girls did better at GCSE because of the coursework, but that cannot be the reason now." Withington School, in Manchester, which last week became the first girls' school to top *The Times* A-level table, is third in today's GCSE equivalent. It and the second-placed King Edward VI High School for Girls, in Birmingham, beat the previous best GCSE score. The St Paul's foundation also provides the top boys' school, in seventh place. Sevenoaks School is the leading mixed school, at 36th.

Up to half of "Paulinas" taking A levels go to Oxford or Cambridge universities each year. The school was second in *The Times* A-level table.

Recognised as one of the academic powerhouses of the independent system, St Paul's, which is a day school, numbers Harriet Harman, the Health Secretary, and writers such as Brigid Brophy and Shirley Conran among its former pupils. Unusually among leading independent schools, there is no school uniform, no competitive houses or prefects. Fees are more than £6,000 a year.

Professor Alan Smithers, head of Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, who carried out a comparison of single-sex and mixed education for the leading independent schools, said: "Of course, [St Paul's] is highly selective, but one wonders how they can achieve quite such a level of consistency."

The independent schools' pass rate for the top two grades was three times the national average. More than 45 per cent of their entries were awarded A* or A, and 92 per cent reached grade C or above.

The leading state schools made up for a disappointing showing in last week's A-level table by filling five of the top 50 places. The girls of Kendrick School, in Reading, were the highest-placed for the second successive year, at 27th, with the neighbouring Reading School the top state boys' school.

League tables, page 8
Averil Burgess, page 20

KIERON DOHERTY

A jubilant Michael Atherton, the England cricket captain, at Lord's yesterday after confounding expectations by announcing that he will stay on in the job. Pages 40, 48

INSIDE

Major urges 'no' vote

John Major today appeals to Scotland and Wales to reject the "doomed enterprise" of devolution in their referendums next month. He comes back to the political fray with a passionate denunciation of the Government's plans, suggesting they will turn the two countries into unemployment blackspots, provoke conflict and eventually lead to the break-up of the UK .... Page 20

Late taxpayers face heavy fines

Taxpayers who file their returns late face heavy fines. To date, only 2.7 million out of eight million taxpayers have returned them. Those who want the Inland Revenue to work out their tax bills must meet the September 30 deadline .... Page 29

Jeffrey Bernard is near the end

Jeffrey Bernard is seriously unwell. His "Low Life" column in *The Spectator* has run 21 years but did not appear this week. Previous ones written from his hospital bed have suggested that the end is near. Simon Jenkins on dying with dignity .... Page 20

Tim Henman crashes out

Tim Henman, the British No 2, went out in the second round of the United States Open at Flushing Meadows yesterday. He was beaten in straight sets by Wayne Ferreira, from South Africa, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in only 1 hour and 33 minutes............. Page 42

Heathrow near-miss jet crash was 'seconds away'

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

TWO passenger jets with nearly 200 people on board came within 200 ft of a collision over Slough this week in one of the most serious "air miss" incidents reported in British airspace.

A potential catastrophe was averted at the very last second as one of the pilots was ordered to pull to the left. The shaken air traffic controller who had inadvertently brought the two aircraft so close immediately reported what he had done and stood down from duty.

The incident, on Wednesday afternoon, was regarded as so serious that air accident investigators from the Department of Transport have been called in to establish what went wrong. It is the third, and by far the most serious, such incident to be reported this week and comes amid mounting concern that the number of flights now using British airports and airspace is reaching capacity.

In Wednesday's incident, which happened during a violent thunderstorm, neither pilot knew how close they had been to disaster and neither will be able to offer any explanation for the controller's apparent mistake.

Flight SAB 603 from Brussels was at about 800 ft on its final approach to Runway 26 Left at Heathrow when the pilot reported he had entered "thick and turbulent cloud".

Seconds later the aircraft was hit by torrential rain and as he could no longer see the runway the pilot asked air traffic control if he could "go around". Normally if an attempted landing is aborted the pilot is instructed to fly straight on and climb to 3,000 feet and await instructions from the ground.

However, the air traffic controller at West Drayton immediately told the pilot of SAB 603 to turn right on what is technically known as a "non-standard vector".

At about the same time British Airways Boeing 757 Flight BA 818 to Copenhagen with 63 passengers and eight crew on board had just taken off on the parallel Runway 26 Right.

As the pilot raised the undercarriage, brought in the flaps and switched radio frequency, he was ordered to turn right and bank to head northwest. However, his new flight path took him almost exactly on to the same heading

Continued on page 2, col 4

Aid package for refugees in Antigua

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government will next week announce a substantial aid package for Antigua to help the island to cope with the influx of refugees fleeing Montserrat.

George Foulkes, junior International Development Minister, will give details when he visits Antigua on Tuesday during his tour of the region.

He said last night that the aid was intended to help to take some of the pressure off Montserrat. The aid package, expected to be worth several million pounds, will will help Antigua's hospitals and schools to deal with the extra burden of the 3,000 refugees and pay for new houses.

Edge of disaster, pages 12, 13

Unionist anger at Sinn Fein talks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday took the momentous step of inviting Sinn Fein to peace talks for the first time since Ireland's 1921 partition but the furious reaction of leading Ulster Unionists left their participation in serious doubt.

During a 20-minute telephone conversation last night Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, discussed ways to reassure Unionists who feel betrayed by the Government and view the peace process with deep suspicion. Without, at least, the Ulster Unionist Party present the talks would be a farce.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, invited Sinn Fein to join the Stormont talks on September 15 after concluding that the IRA's six-week-old ceasefire was "unequivocal", and said that a meeting between Mr Blair and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, was now only a matter of time. She acknowledged how difficult it would be for Unionist leaders to sit down with the IRA's political representatives but insisted that talks were the only possible way of achieving peace.

Martin McGuinness, who will lead the Sinn Fein negotiating team, said the talks now offered "the most wonderful opportunity we'll have in this century".

The invitation was warmly welcomed by Dublin and the White House, but Unionist politicians claimed that the Government had been duped. David Trimble, the UUP leader, called the idea "repulsive".

WEATHER 24
CROSSWORD 24
COURT & SOCIAL 22
LETTERS 21
OBITUARIES 23
SIMON JENKINS 20
BUSINESS NEWS 25-28
WEEKEND MONEY .. 29-37
SPORT 38-48

WEEKEND

GARDENING 4, 5
PROPERTY 7-9
TRAVEL 15-22

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LIVERPOOL v NEWCASTLE
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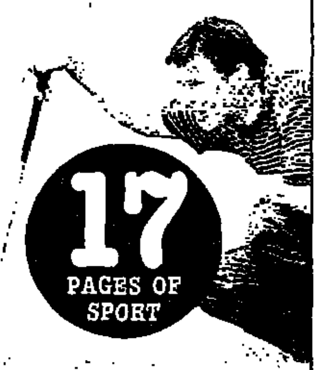
OLYMPIC CITY: YEAR 2004
Rob Hughes
assesses the
contenders



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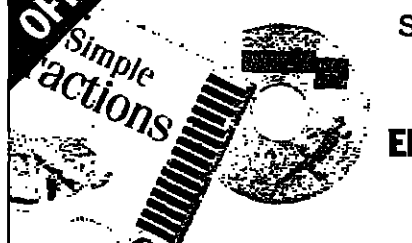


FEATURES
BUCKS, BREAD, AND GREENBACKS
Why we
do not
like to talk
money

TIMES ARTS
CATHEDRALS OF SPORT
Marcus Binney on the new
football stadiums

CRISPIN RODWELL

Looking for peace: Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, settles her glasses as she announces that Sinn Fein is to be admitted to multi-party talks despite fears over Unionist anger A momentous step, Page 1

Dobson tells NHS to avoid winter crisis

Trusts fear that they do not have the funds to meet the Health Secretary's demands, reports **Nigel Hawkes**

FRANK DOBSON, the Health Secretary, yesterday ordered *the National Health Service to* start planning now to avoid a crisis this winter.

Mr Dobson instructed hospitals, health authorities, and local authorities to work together to ensure that services *can cope with the big increase* in patients that the NHS has to cope with every winter. The NHS must learn the lessons of past failures, he said, admitting that the quality of planning and preparation had in *the past been variable.* "*In* some places it is excellent and in others, not so good" Mr Dobson said. "We must ensure that best practice becomes normal practice."

In a letter to all health *authority and hospital trust* chairmen, and to leaders of councils and chairs of social services and housing committees, Mr Dobson called for increased co-operation to avoid problems. He declared *that adequate provision must* be made for emergency care; that there must be no unilateral closures of accident and emergency departments; and that the NHS must work with social services to ensure *unbroken provision of care.*

The NHS Conferation welcomed the moves, and said that health authorities and trusts were already drawing up "battle plans" to tackle the expected increase in hospital *admissions. But it gave warn*ing that taking on extra staff and opening extra facilities could cost larger trusts hundreds of thousands of pounds which they do not have.

"Trusts and health authori*ties are already gearing up* ahead of the Secretary of State's request," said Jean Trainor, acting chief executive of the confederation. "However, there are implications for funding. During the summer months some trusts have been operating at winter levels and without extra funding they expect to take a further hammering this winter."

Dobson: said that lessons must be learnt

Every winter, hospital admissions increase sharply. The problem is exacerbated if patients cannot be discharged in good time, for lack of support in the community. *That is why Mr Dobson is also* involving social service and housing departments. His letter is based on the results of a tour made by the NHS Chief Executive, Alan Langlands, and the Chief Social Services *Inspector, Sir Herbert Lam*ing, to the eight NHS regions.

Their report shows that emergency admissions were 6.4 per cent higher in the final quarter of 1996 than they had been a year earlier. Combined *with a moderate flu outbreak,* a short spell of icy weather, delayed discharges, staff shortages, and a reluctance by trusts to spend money, this led to peaks of demand during which patients could not always be found beds.

Pressures were severe between mid-December and the end of February, with the peak coming between December 30 and January 20. The report says that the NHS came under "very severe strain", with serious disruption to normal delivery of care, and that it was not always able to do more than "scrape by".

NEWS IN BRIEF

BBC tries to block Teletubbies single

THE BBC is to seek an injunction against three disc jockeys planning to release a charity fund-raising *Teletubbies pop single.* Vincent Brown, 29, from Whitby, North Yorkshire, has recorded the *Tubbiebyebyes* song and sent demo tapes to dozens of radio stations. It features the soundtrack of the voices of Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Laa Laa and Po against a fast disco rhythm similar to the hit song *Cotton Eye Joe,* by Rednex. Mr Brown and his colleagues, Anthony Jones and Andy Brennan, were planning a Christmas release.

The BBC2 programme has a strong following among students as well as the pre-school audience it is aimed at. But the planned *pop single* has fallen foul of the BBC's copyright lawyers. John Willan, director of BBC Worldwide Music, said yesterday: "It is a clear infringement of our BBC copyright and we will be seeking an injunction on Monday."

No show at Christmas

An American cinema chain denied reports that it planned to open its British theatres on Christmas Day. Showcase, which runs 15 multi-screen sites, has applied to eight local authorities to have restrictions on Christmas Day opening rescinded. Its other seven cinemas already have licences to *operate* on Christmas Day. A spokeswoman said: "We are simply looking ahead should the market arise."

Father missing at sea

Coastguards called off an air and sea search for a 25-year-old father of three who disappeared after drifting out to sea on an inflatable dinghy at Chapel St Leonards on the Lincolnshire coast. The dinghy was discovered empty. Police toured the beaches appealing for information about any missing persons were approached by *an eight-year-old* girl saying she had lost her father.

Kitten case quashed

A man jailed for six months for cooking a live kitten in a *microwave oven at a party has been freed by an appeal* court. Brendan Blennerhassett, 24, of Luton, had been convicted by magistrates in Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland, of causing cruelty to an animal. He maintained his innocence and a recorder sitting with two magistrates at Newcastle Crown Court quashed the sentence.

Two jailed for crash lie

Two men were jailed for three months after crashing a company car and claiming it had been stolen. Jonathan Kirby, 28, employed by a finance company, allowed his friend, Benjamin Morley, 23, to drive the car after they had *been drinking heavily,* the Old Bailey was told. Kirby, of Maida Vale, west London, and Morley, of Guildford, admitted acts intended to pervert the course of justice.

Inquest on former MP

Ted Leadbitter, *the former* Labour MP for Hartlepool, may have been suffering from dementia when he drove into a stationary road maintenance lorry in November, his GP told a Middlesbrough inquest. He suffered a broken back and died a month later. Mr Leadbitter, 77, whose wife had died a month earlier, was succeeded in the seat in 1992 by Peter Mandelson. Verdict: accidental death.

Police head for Amazon

Three Metropolitan Police officers, from left, Bryan Fewkes, 37, John Anthony, 33, the leader, and Ray Hall, 41, are to travel by powered canoe 4,500 miles up the Amazon, from its mouth to the Andes. The journey, organised by the Police Expeditions Club, is aimed at raising up to £100,000 *for the Sick Children's Trust* and the *medical* charity Action Research. The six-week expedition will start on September 11.

Programme chief quits

John Willis, director of programmes at Channel 4, left *yesterday four months after failing in his attempt to* succeed Michael Grade as chief executive. Mr Willis agreed terms to release him from his contract, which carries an annual salary of £250,000. Michael Jackson, who was appointed Channel 4's chief executive in May, will now combine his role with that of director of programmes.

Briton's attacker guilty

Aundra Akins, 18, who shot and wounded a British holidaymaker, Margaret Jagger, 39, *of Bradford,* was found guilty of attempted first-degree murder yesterday at Monticello, Florida. Akins, who was 14 at the time of the bungled robbery, admitted killing Ms Jagger's companion *Gary* Colley. The prosecution is seeking a sentence of 40 years.

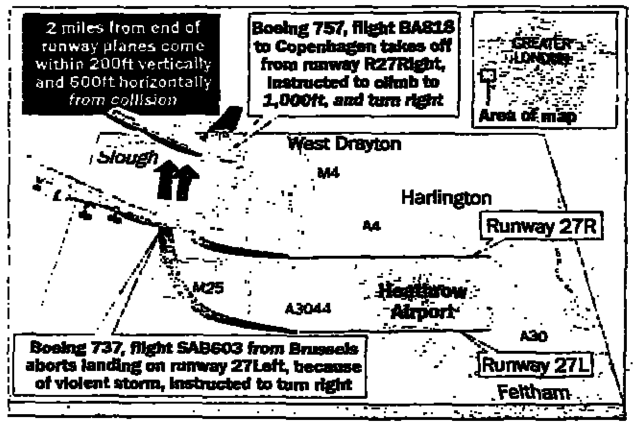
Heathrow near-miss

Continued from page 1

as the flight from Brussels. Controllers on the ground shouted in horror as they saw the two radar "blips" merge into one. It is estimated that the incident occured at a height of 1,000 feet just two miles northwest of Heathrow and that the two planes were at most 200 feet apart vertical*ly and 600 feet horizontally.* The aircraft were flying at 190 miles an hour.

The air accident investigation branch report is not likey to be concluded for almost a year.

Earlier this week reports into less serious near misses showed that in July two Heathrow-bound jets came *within 300 ft of each other over* Lambourne in Essex and last November two British Airways Boeing 757s almost collided as they "stacked" over Biggin Hill in Kent.


2 miles from end of runway planes come within 200ft vertically and 600ft horizontally from collision
Boeing 757, flight BA818 to Copenhagen takes off from runway R27Right, instructed to climb to 1,000ft, and turn right
GREATER LONDON
Area of map
West Drayton
Slough
M4
Harlington
A4
Runway 27R
M25
A3044
Heathrow Airport
A30
Boeing 737, flight SAB603 from Brussels aborts landing on runway 27Left, because of violent storm, instructed to turn right
Runway 27L
Feltham

Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister, last night insisted that air travel is still safe.

"If you're a nervous flier, as I am, there are no signals really that are consoling, but it *is still one of the safest forms* of transport," she told BBC Radio 4's *PM* programme.

Labour MP in marriage break-up

DENNIS CANAVAN, the *Labour MP for Falkirk West,* confirmed yesterday that he had separated from his second wife, Brigid.

Mr Canavan, 55, said the split had been amicable and that no one else was involved. *He had been living alone since* his wife moved out in March. Brigid Gallagher was his long-term girlfriend after the end of his first marriage, from which he has two adult children.

Speaking at his cottage near Sauchieburn, Stirling, Mr Canavan said: "I can confirm Brigid and I have been living apart since March. We are still friends and still see each other occasionally. I wish her all the best and I've just got to try to get on with my life."

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Comedian in road rage attacked car with golf club

Simon de Bruxelles reports on how a showdown between neighbours put a TV performer in court

A TELEVISION comedian had no witty one-liners in a showdown in a narrow country lane. Eddie Large was also without his usual comedy partner, Syd Little. Instead he found himself in a double act with a neighbour in an argument over who should give way.

The comedian with a jovial public image went to the boot of his car, took out a golf club and started attacking the Range Rover driven by Robert Gorton, a retired businessman. He hit the vehicle at the back, front and side, hitting the windscreen and smashing the driver's window, a court was told. Mr Gorton drove off and called the police.

Yesterday Large — charged under his real name Edward Hugh McGinnis — pleaded guilty to causing criminal damage when he appeared before magistrates in Weston-super-Mare. He was granted a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £1,657 for the damage to his victim's car.

The sentence was greeted with dismay by the Automobile Association last night. A spokesman, Adrian Ruck, said: "This is sending completely the wrong message to motorists. This was an ill-advised and totally idiotic attack. It seems like a very lenient ruling given the circumstances. There are a minority of motorists out there who cannot keep their temper. They must now realise that if they do lose their rag with other drivers, the consequences can be severe."

The court heard that the comedian's wife, Patsy, had become distraught after an argument with Mr Gorton, 53, on the lane near the couple's mansion at Clapton-in-Gordano, near Bristol. Brian Pixton, for the prosecution, said that McGinnis, 56, and Mr Gorton met in the lane ten days later and faced each other in their cars. He said: "Mr Gorton said Mr McGinnis was swearing and pointing his finger and was clearly angry. He reversed and parked and Mr McGinnis parked next to him. Mr McGinnis went to the rear of his vehicle and took out a golf club, an iron.

"Mr McGinnis smashed the rear of the vehicle. Mr Gorton reversed, but Mr McGinnis came to the front of the car and hit the windscreen with the iron. Mr Gorton said, 'What the hell is going on?' and the car was attacked on the near side. Mr McGinnis smashed the driver's window."

John Sinnott, for the defence, said that relations between the neighbours had deteriorated over the past two years. "His wife, Patsy, had been verbally abused by the man. Patsy was so upset she burst a blood vessel in her eye." He added that, on the day in question, Mr McGinnis wound down his window and asked why Mr Gorton had been abusive to his wife. Mr Gorton responded by abusing McGinnis as well.

"Mr McGinnis parked his vehicle and got out of his car and went to get his walking stick, which he needs for his arthritis. Mr Gorton started reversing. Mr McGinnis maintains to this day that as far as he was concerned, it was reversing towards him.

"He picked up his golf club and he hit the back windscreen. He was in a panic and acted in fear and struck more than one blow.

"In this case it would be difficult to persuade the bench that it was not one strike too many. Mr McGinnis is upset and was very sorry for what had taken place. He has offered to pay for the damage. There was considerable provocation. He is just about the unlikeliest person on earth to act this way."

The magistrate, Thomas Ward, ordered McGinnis to pay £141 for car hire and £40 costs in addition to the compensation. He said: "You will not be punished today, but if you commit any other offences you will be dealt with for this offence and any other."

McGinnis said later: "They were very fair. They had taken all the facts into account. Now I'm going to have to get my golf club from the police. We have been looking for somewhere else to live in the Bristol area. I feel vindicated."

Mr Gorton and his wife, Jill, kept horses on land which bordered the McGinnises' property, neighbours said yesterday. They claimed that Mrs McGinnis's "inability to reverse a car" had led to frequent clashes. A neighbour, who asked not to be named, said: "Mr Gorton is not the only one who has trouble with the Larges. That lane is long and narrow and there are only a few passing places.

"Anyone driving down it knows that, if they meet Patsy, they will have to do the reversing, even if she is a yard past a passing place. Sometimes it can mean having to reverse a long way back and in the end you get fed up with it.

"This is what happened with Mr Gorton. One day he'd had enough and refused to go back. He just sat there until Patsy got angry and stormed back to the house to find Eddie. Eddie came out and gave Mr Gorton a mouthful. Mr Gorton probably said something pretty strong in return."

The comedian's partner, Syd Little, said last night: "We haven't got any TV appearances lined up, but you may see us on Crimewatch."

The public image: Little and Large in their double act. Little said last night: "You may see us on Crimewatch"

NICK RAY

Large leaves court with his wife, Patsy. The AA said that his sentence sent the wrong message to motorists

Bailiffs sell off £12,000 car for £30 fine

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN returned from holiday to discover bailiffs had seized her car, which she estimates is worth £12,000, and sold it to recover an unpaid £30 parking fine.

Helena Prinse, 32, was in Australia when her special edition Range Rover, with a personalised number plate and £700 CD player, was taken from outside her home in Barnes, southwest London.

The car, which also contained Versace sunglasses, CDs and a child's seat, was then sold without a reserve price at auction in Croydon for £8,100. After the auctioneers' and bailiffs' fees have been paid, Mrs Prinse expects to receive £7,100. She says the contents of the car are missing and that she is still waiting for the money.

"It's disgusting. I just cannot believe I have been treated like this."

The mother of two, who runs a fashion retail company, was given the ticket after parking in Mortimer Street, Westminster, last October. "I never saw the ticket or received the reminder," she said.

"The first I knew about the ticket was when I received a letter from CCS Enforcement Services in Croydon, on July 31, asking for £156 to pay for the fine and administrative costs. I contacted the bailiffs and offered to pay the whole bill by cheque. They refused to accept the cheque and wanted a postal order. I was going on holiday a day later and told them I didn't have time to get a postal order. I asked them to bear with me for three weeks. At no time did I say I wouldn't pay.

"I live in a large house in Barnes. It was obvious I could afford to pay the bill. And who in their right mind would knowingly allow their car to be sold off rather than pay £156?"

After Mrs Prinse left for her holiday in Australia on August 2, a letter was delivered to her home telling her to pay the fine by August 11 or the car would be sold. She returned home on August 25 to find it had gone.

"I called the police thinking the car had been stolen until I discovered the bailiff's letter," she said.

"Even if this is legal, it is morally unforgivable. For a £30 parking ticket it should not be right that bailiffs can take a Range Rover. I have been very upset. I have had so many sleepless nights."

CCS Enforcement Services declined to comment. A spokesman for Westminster City Council said that the council had carried out its statutory duty to pursue the fine. He said three letters had been sent to Mrs Prinse demanding payment, on December 14, January 18 and March 20. The last letter warned that the case was going to court and that the bailiffs could be sent in.

"People have plenty of opportunity to query the fines," the spokesman said. "If a driver doesn't want to be penalised they should not park illegally in the city of Westminster." He added: "Mrs Prinse has ignored notices on a number of occasions, this is not the first time. It is a serious matter which should be dealt with properly and quickly."

Lottery winners go on strike over unpaid leave

Thirteen women who won £300,000 each are taking action against their council employer, reports **Alexandra Frean**

THIRTEEN women who stayed in their jobs with a London council despite sharing in a £10 million lottery win are going on strike next week in a dispute over the amount of compassionate leave granted to one of them to care for her dying father.

The women, who were among 33 members of Camden council's homeless persons unit who won £304,724 each in the lottery in January last year, said at the time that they did not have the sort of jobs "where you can just get up and walk out". Their clients, they said, depended on them.

Despite their stated commitment to their work, the women have decided to stage a five-day strike, starting on Monday, with the full backing of Unison, their union.

The dispute centres on the case of Philomena Kelly, 41, who has worked for the council for 18 years. When she learnt earlier this year that her father was dying, Mrs Kelly took 11½ days' leave to care for him in a hospice. Some 2½ days of this were taken as unpaid "special leave" and as time owing. The council insisted that she take the remaining nine days as part of her annual holiday, despite her request that it be counted as unpaid special leave.

Although 11 of the council syndicate's other lottery winners have decided not to join the strike, at least 20 of the 38 who work in the unit have expressed their support for her request and are expected to join the action.

David Eggmore, the assistant branch secretary of Camden Unison, said: "Not all the strikers are lottery winners. People do not decide to strike because they have money in the bank." Mr Eggmore said that the council had acted unsympathetically over a matter that ought to have been resolved through negotiation. "It is almost as if the council would have preferred that she leave after winning the lottery," he added.

So incensed is the union over Mrs Kelly's treatment that even Rodney Bickerstaff, its general secretary, was moved to intervene yesterday in an appeal to the council to change its mind. "This is a disgraceful way to treat a loyal, caring worker. Philomena did not abandon the people she cares for when she won the lottery. Now, when she needs the support and understanding of her employer, she's being treated harshly. I ask Camden to reconsider its treatment of her."

The council, which won a Charter Mark last year for the quality of the unit's customer service, remained unmoved last night. A spokeswoman said that, as it had allowed Mrs Kelly ten days' bereavement leave after her father's death, three days' dependency leave to care for her husband when he had a bad back and two days' special unpaid leave to be with her sick mother, it believed it had acted fairly towards her. "We believe we have treated our member of staff fairly and sympathetically and there was no question of her being denied the right to see her dying father. We are sorry she feels her treatment is unfair. But we have to balance her needs with our duty to provide a service to homeless people."

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Philomena Kelly, second left, with Margie West, Christine Winter and Maria Martinez, some of the 33 workers from Camden council's homeless persons unit who shared £10 million

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

INSIDE DIANA'S MIND

As Diana, Princess of Wales, again finds herself in a spat over remarks to the press, Oliver James attempts a daring royal psychoanalysis in a search for the key to her personality

In News Review tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

New technique helps widow give birth

Daughter conceived using dead man's sperm stresses importance of consent when a man is fatally ill, reports **Alexandra Frean**

A 37-YEAR-OLD widow has become the first woman in Britain to give birth to her dead husband's child using a revolutionary fertility treatment.

The woman, who has asked to remain anonymous, gave birth to a healthy daughter three years after her husband died of testicular cancer. The couple had been trying to have children for four years when the man became ill. As he embarked on chemotherapy and after he had given his written permission for his sperm to be used if he died, doctors took three vials of his sperm and froze it.

Kamal Ahuja, the scientific director of the private Cromwell IVF centre in the Cromwell Hospital in London, where the woman was treated, said yesterday that the baby had been born in an NHS hospital within the past three weeks. "It has brought a lot of happiness to the woman, her family and her late husband's family. There is a lot of joy around," he said. There is a chance the woman may be able to have more children using the same method.

Dr Ahuja said that the baby's successful birth represented an international breakthrough. The woman is the first in Britain, possibly in the world, to have given birth after conceiving from a dead man's sperm using the intricate intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) technique, which takes a sperm and punctures the shell of the egg to fertilise it.

Two vials of the husband's sperm were unsuccessfully used in traditional insemination attempts, where the semen is injected into the entrance of the womb. "When she was down to her last vial, we told her that we needed to use a more precise method. The ICSI technique is more appropriate in cases where the sperm is weak — her husband's sperm were weak because he had undergone chemotherapy," Dr Ahuja said.

Of the ten eggs that were successfully fertilised, six resulted in normal embryos. Three embryos were transferred and the remaining three have been stored for possible future use.

Although an ultrasound scan early in the pregnancy revealed that the woman was expecting twins, one of the embryos was reabsorbed.

When news of the woman's pregnancy was revealed in January, at least 15 news organisations offered to buy her story but, concerned about how media attention might affect her during her pregnancy, she turned them all down.

"When she lost the second embryo, she became concerned that she might lose the first as well. I think that is why she did not want to speak about it to the media," Dr Ahuja said. He added that the woman was happy for the fact of her pregnancy and of her baby's birth to be reported as a way of raising public awareness of the importance of gaining written consent from men suffering from fatal illnesses for their sperm to be used after their death.

The woman's case contrasts with that of Diane Blood, who fought last year for the right to have a baby using the sperm of her dead husband, Stephen. After Mr Blood developed meningitis, two sperm samples were taken from him as he lay in a coma in a Sheffield hospital. After his death his wife was initially refused the right to use the sperm for fertility treatment because he had not given his written consent for the procedure — as required by the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act.

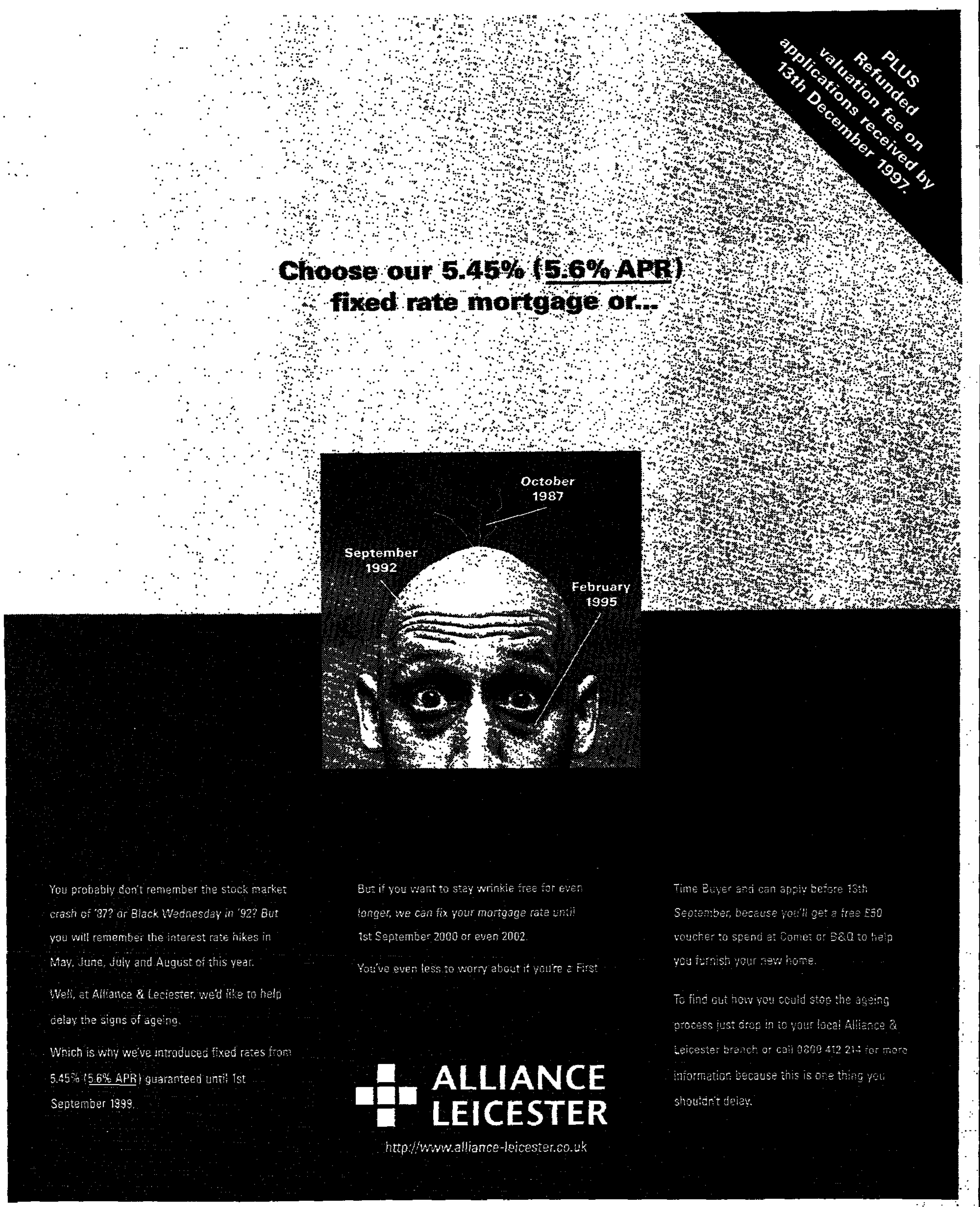
Earlier this year Mrs Blood won the right to take the sperm for treatment elsewhere in Europe if a hospital was willing to undertake the procedure. Mrs Blood is being assessed for treatment at a private fertility clinic in Belgium. Mrs Blood, 30, from Worksop, Nottinghamshire, is required to undergo counselling before any medical treatment can begin. During the sessions she will be asked about arrangements for bringing up her baby — especially alternative male role models.

A friend of the family said, "It's important that Diane is well before she embarks on treatment. She was exhausted after the court battle."

The Department of Health is expected to publish the results of a review of the consent requirements in such cases later this year.

CHRIS HARRIS

Diane Blood: hoping for a similarly happy outcome after winning her court battle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Warning for surgeon who let daughter help him out

By Richard Duce

A SURGEON who allowed his 16-year-old daughter to help him during an operation was warned about his future conduct yesterday by a hospital disciplinary hearing.

Michael Williams, a vascular surgeon, also agreed to apologise to the patient on whom he operated at the Mayday University Hospital in Croydon, South London, while his daughter, Samantha, a work experience student, held a skin retractor. He is expected to return to work at the NHS hospital on Monday. All work experience students will be banned from operating theatres at the hospital.

The patient, who does not wish to be identified, has already indicated that he would be happy to let the matter rest once Mr Williams apologised. He knew nothing of what happened until he was called back to the hospital, where managers explained the incident to him and his wife.

He is still within his rights to complain to the General Medical Council where Mr Williams, of Kenley, Surrey, could face further disciplinary action. A spokeman for Croydon Community Health Council said last night: "If he wishes to take the matter further after today's hearing then that option is open to him.

"The patient's charter clearly states that the patient must be asked if they are prepared to allow medical students to participate in any surgery. This would also include people on any type of work experience."

Mr Williams was called before the disciplinary tribunal to explain during a three-hour hearing why he had allowed his daughter to assist in the operation while she was seconded to the hospital from school on work experience last July.

He emerged from the hearing to issue a statement through a representative from the Medical Defence Union. "I am very disappointed at the result of today's hearing. I have been a surgeon at Mayday University Hospital for six years and during this time the care of my patients has always mattered most to me.

"My greatest disappointment is that these circumstances have taken me away from my work. This has been a very difficult time for me, but I have been overwhelmed by the extent of the support that I have received from my patients, hospital colleagues and local GPs who have inundated me with letters and phone calls. I have found this a great comfort.

"I would like to thank my colleagues and my family who have been a great strength. I am now looking forward to getting back to my patients." He said his daughter had been "extremely stressed" by recent events.

The tribunal consisted of Keith Ford, the hospital's chief executive, and Karen Oliver, director of personnel. Mr Ford said in a statement last night: "Although work experience students have not been prohibited from theatre areas, at the time of the incident their presence was not unusual there. Nevertheless, Mr Williams should not have allowed his daughter to assist in the operation holding a retractor.

"I would like to stress that no harm has come to any patient. However it is important for public confidence that incidents are dealt with correctly and openly and that appropriate disciplinary action is taken.

"Mr Williams is an excellent surgeon and we have total confidence in his ability to continue to provide a high standard of care for our patients."

Mr Williams was suspended from the hospital once the incident came to light but continued to work with private patients at the nearby Shirley Oaks Hospital.

Last night Samantha Williams said she was very pleased for her father. "He just rang us and said they had given him an oral warning, which is the lowest penalty he could have got."

She declined to comment on the affect the incident had had on her. "My friends have been very good about it, actually. That is all I will say."

Michael Williams at the Mayday Hospital yesterday, where he agreed to apologise to the patient involved

هكذا من الأصل

Me new Tarzan, and I'm no ape

It's still a jungle out there, but the he-man has turned into New Man. **Dalya Alberge** reports from the Venice Film Festival

New Tarzan: van Dien "is just a fit young guy"

TARZAN has become a New Man. Political correctness has caught up with his jungle paradise. He no longer kills animals and his mate, Jane, does some of the fighting, in the biggest of three films being made about the Lord of the Apes.

"This is a Tarzan for the 1990s, and Jane is a modern woman," said Greg Coote, president of Village Roadshow Pictures, which is leading the revival of one of the best-known legends of popular fiction. "It went away for a while, but it's back."

He believes the new popularity reflects worldwide concerns for the environment and the rainforests. In the $25 million *Tarzan: Jungle Warrior*, the hero will not have to stab a vicious crocodile in a swamp or strangle a crazed lion. Jane will not just stand helplessly in the face of danger.

The hero will be played by Casper van Dien, whose first major role is in *The Starship Troopers*. Mr Coote said: "He's built not like Arnold Schwarzenegger but is just a fit young guy. And great looking." Jane will be played by Britain's Jane March, who appeared in *The Lover*. Steven Waddington, who starred in the BBC's *Ivanhoe* adaptation, is a villain.

The story has been adapted from *Tarzan and the Lost City of Opar*, and will use more than 100 computer-generated images recreating scenes such as a swarm of bees saving Tarzan from a cobra.

There have been more than 40 Tarzan movies since Edgar Rice Burroughs created his action hero in 1912, turning to writing after numerous unsuccessful jobs. He produced some 25 books about the son of an English nobleman abandoned in the jungle as baby and brought up by the apes. The stories have been translated into more than 56 languages, and there are 21,000 pages devoted to him on the Internet.

Johnny Weissmuller, the former Olympic swimming champion who changed from his bathing costume to a loincloth for a series of films, remains one of the best-known Tarzans. The most successful recent example was Christopher Lambert in the 1984 *Greystoke*. Despite a big-screen lull since then, the hero remains well-known. Mr Coote said that the British distributor, First Independent, conducted some Tarzan research in London: "It was incredible. They found 95 per cent awareness."

Village Roadshow Pictures, is an Australian company with a base in Los Angeles. Within the past two years, they have entered into partnerships with the actor Dustin Hoffmann in producing films, and with Warners in co-owning British multiplexes such as the Warner West End in London. Their forthcoming films include *The Blouse Man*, starring Anna Paquin, the Oscar-winning girl from *The Piano*, which is shooting at the moment. They hope that their Tarzan film will be released in Britain in May.

"It's going to be spectacular," said Paul Davis, of Village Intermedia Pictures, a joint venture with VRP, who is attending the Venice Film Festival to handle a rather different project — the international licensing for Woody Allen's new *Deconstructing Harry*. Mr Davis added: "This is going to introduce a new generation to the character of Tarzan."

Two other forthcoming films inspired by the Tarzan stories are planned by the Walt Disney stable. The British songwriter and performer Phil Collins is composing a score for an animation feature based on the novel *Tarzan of the Apes*. It is his first full film score. Disney refused to release any details about the film, partly because of concern about rivals pirating their ideas. It is not scheduled for release until 1999.

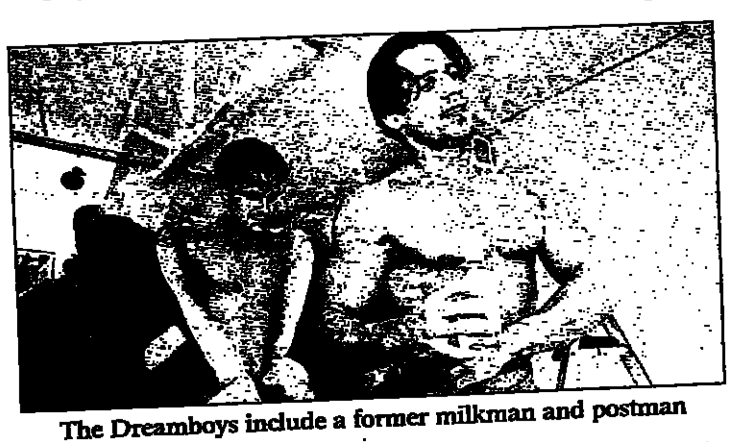
The old Tarzan: Johnny Weissmuller, former Olympic swimmer, ready to swing into action with his co-stars

The advantage of animation, said a spokeswoman, was that the actors and crew would not have to worry about hazards such as malaria and water-snakes. Their second film is a lightweight comedy loosely inspired by Tarzan, and could represent an even newer man. It is called *George of the Jungle*.

It is hard to guess what Burroughs — who died in 1950 — might have thought of a politically correct Tarzan, although he might well have approved because of his concern for the natural world. He once said: "I wanted my readers to realise that man alone of all the creatures that inhabit the Earth is the only creature that derives pleasure from inflicting pain on other creatures, even his own kind."

The real Monty is more than just a comic strip

In the city jungle, some modern men don't even have loincloths, writes **Peter Foster**



The Dreamboys include a former milkman and postman

THE job is better paid than a milkman's, has less routine than a postman's but is less challenging than fixing air-conditioning units. Stripping can be an easy way to make a living, but only if you have the physique, the tan and chutzpah to — er — pull it off.

In the new British film comedy, *The Full Monty*, which goes on nationwide release this weekend, six unemployed Sheffield steelworkers bare their beer bellies and pigeon chests to raise a few quid and escape the daily insult of registering at the city's job club. Real-life professionals have similarly humble backgrounds, but they have to rely on more than novelty value and the desire of women to see their menfolk make idiots of themselves.

Jonny Moon gave up work as a milkman in the Midlands to join the Dreamboy troupe more than five years ago. He remembers his audition in a now-defunct London dance club very clearly: "When I arrived, ten or 12 of the guys were rehearsing. The choreographer stopped the music, told the guys to sit down, and then turned the music back on and I had to dance. It was terrifying but I went for it, all or bust, and it worked."

Another of the Dreamboys, Richard Adams, 25, was a postman, and Alex Micallef, 22, joined after studying psychology and computing. He said: "I could sympathise with the characters in the film who were so nervous before going on stage. On my first performance, the boys had to throw me out there and block the doorway so I couldn't get back. I was terrified and ending up stripping far too quickly."

Other Dreamboys have had less difficulty finding the courage. Trevor Goldstein, a former air-conditioning technician, said: "Why should I be embarrassed? I look fantastic."

They can earn up to £20,000 a year from touring and television appearances — a relatively small sum, but the job includes a number of expenses-paid trips abroad and as many ego-massages as any 20-something male could reasonably demand.

While a Dreamboy can rely on women for adulation, he often finds men much less complimentary. In the *The Full Monty*, one of the toughened steel-workers dismisses the Chippendales as "poofs", an experience with which all the Dreamboys identified when they saw the film premiere. "You wouldn't believe the jealousy," Richard Adams said. "We did a show last night in which some 60-year-old bloke started slagging us off." But unlike the characters in *The Full Monty*, a diet of lager, cigarettes and Mars Bars is strictly forbidden to professionals.

These men exist on low-fat tuna, chicken and pasta. A few pints of lager might be allowed at the weekends if they behave themselves. Maintaining biceps, triceps and pectorals also means three or four tough sessions in the gym each week.

As for going "the full monty", the fictional lads of Sheffield have the edge on the Chippendales and the Dreamboys. The professional dancers may take off everything, including their G-strings, but there is always a strategically placed half a coconut or a policeman's hat for cover. Jonny Moon said: "We like to leave something to the imagination."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council dismisses clerk on £71,000

A town council clerk who was discovered to be earning £71,000 a year has been sacked for gross misconduct. Michael Wheaton, a former leader of Humberside County Council, was clerk of Goole council in east Yorkshire, where the recommended salary was about £23,000. He had been suspended on £36,000 for six months before his dismissal, which followed an eight-day hearing. He is expected to appeal. Earlier this year police launched a separate inquiry. A file is beign considered by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Jailed for fight

Two men were jailed for a year at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, for taking part in a fight at Paddington station between Millwall and Bristol City football fans. John Kilgannon, 22, of Southwark, southeast London — who had not been at the match — and Steven Tear, 37, of Sidcup, had denied violent disorder.

Killer escapes

A convicted murderer who married in jail is on the run with a waitress he met while at work in a pub on day release, police said. Peter McCluskie, 34, who would soon have been eligible for parole and had been on a rehabilitation project, was reported missing from Wealstun prison, west Yorkshire, after his Tuesday shift.

Two die in crash

A motorist and a cyclist who had been involved in a minor road accident outside Banbury, Oxfordshire, died when they were struck by an oncoming car, police said. The motorist, named as Melvin Ratledge, 36, had stopped to check that the cyclist, Paul Jelfs, 41, was all right. The second motorist was treated for shock.

Crooks by hook

Burglars took several hours to steal 15 knitted jumpers worth more than £1,000 from a shop by hooking them from a display unit with a stick pushed through the letterbox. Staff at Serana Ladies Fashion in Romsey, Hampshire, said that the material would not have been easy to hook without damaging it.

RNLI lifesaver

A retired teacher has just bought her second lifeboat. Olive Stone, 92, paid £11,500 for a rescue inflatable to be based at Whitby after saving £61,500 to pay for a new boat for Aberystwyth last year. The RNLI has named both boats after Miss Stone, of Barnsley, who now intends to buy a third.

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HALIFAX TESSA 2 Variable Rate	7.00	–	–	–	7.00	–	–	–	–	–
Matured TESSA	7.00	–	5.60	–	7.00	–	–	–	–	–
BONUS GOLD (Including bonus)										
£100,000+	7.25	–	5.80	–	7.10	–	6.85	–	5.48	–
£50,000+	6.80	–	5.44	–	6.65	–	6.50	–	5.20	–
£25,000+	6.30	–	5.04	–	6.15	–	6.00	–	4.80	–
£10,000+	6.10	–	4.88	–	5.95	–	5.90	–	4.72	–
Monthly Income Option (Including bonus)										
£100,000+	7.08	7.25	5.66	5.77	6.94	7.10	6.70	6.85	5.36	5.46
£50,000+	6.65	6.80	5.32	5.41	6.51	6.65	6.37	6.50	5.10	5.18
£25,000+	6.18	6.30	4.94	5.02	6.03	6.15	5.89	6.00	4.71	4.78
£10,000+	5.98	6.10	4.78	4.86	5.84	5.95	5.79	5.90	4.63	4.70
60 DAY GOLD										
£100,000+	6.95	–	5.56	–	6.80	–	–	–	–	–
£50,000+	6.40	–	5.12	–	6.25	–	–	–	–	–
£25,000+	6.10	–	4.88	–	5.95	–	–	–	–	–
£10,000+	5.85	–	4.68	–	5.70	–	–	–	–	–
£5,000+	5.35	–	4.28	–	5.20	–	–	–	–	–
Monthly Income Option										
£100,000+	6.74	6.95	5.39	5.53	6.60	6.80	–	–	–	–
£50,000+	6.22	6.40	4.98	5.10	6.08	6.25	–	–	–	–
£25,000+	5.94	6.10	4.75	4.85	5.79	5.95	–	–	–	–
£10,000+	5.70	5.85	4.56	4.66	5.56	5.70	–	–	–	–
£5,000+	5.22	5.35	4.18	4.26	5.08	5.20	–	–	–	–
SOLID GOLD										
£50,000+	5.65	–	4.52	–	5.50	–	5.45	–	4.36	–
£25,000+	5.55	–	4.44	–	5.40	–	5.35	–	4.28	–
£10,000+	5.15	–	4.12	–	5.00	–	5.15	–	4.12	–
£5,000+	4.85	–	3.88	–	4.70	–	4.75	–	3.80	–
£500+	4.10	–	3.28	–	3.95	–	3.95	–	3.16	–
Monthly Income Option										
£50,000+	5.51	5.65	4.41	4.50	5.37	5.50	5.32	5.45	4.26	4.34
£25,000+	5.41	5.55	4.33	4.42	5.27	5.40	5.22	5.35	4.18	4.26
£10,000+	5.03	5.15	4.02	4.09	4.89	5.00	5.03	5.15	4.02	4.09
£5,000+	4.75	4.85	3.80	3.87	4.60	4.70	4.65	4.75	3.72	3.78
£500+	4.02	4.10	3.22	3.27	3.88	3.95	3.88	3.95	3.10	3.14

ACCOUNT	UK rates GROSS p.a. %	UK rates GROSS C.A.R. %	UK rates NET p.a. %	UK rates NET C.A.R. %	Non-resident rates† GROSS p.a. %	Non-resident rates† GROSS C.A.R. %	Non-personal rates GROSS p.a. %	Non-personal rates GROSS C.A.R. %	Non-personal rates NET p.a. %	Non-personal rates NET C.A.R. %
LIQUID GOLD										
£25,000+	4.50	–	3.60	–	4.35	–	4.25	–	3.40	–
£10,000+	4.30	–	3.44	–	4.15	–	4.15	–	3.32	–
£5,000+	4.15	–	3.32	–	4.00	–	3.95	–	3.16	–
£2,500+	3.95	–	3.16	–	3.80	–	3.70	–	2.96	–
£500+	3.75	–	3.00	–	3.60	–	3.50	–	2.80	–
£50+	0.50	–	0.40	–	0.50	–	0.50	–	0.40	–
ASSET RESERVE CHEQUE ACCOUNT										
£50,000+	5.95	6.08	4.76	4.85	5.95	6.08	5.35	5.46	4.28	4.35
£25,000+	5.65	5.77	4.52	4.60	5.65	5.77	4.90	4.99	3.92	3.98
£10,000+	5.30	5.41	4.24	4.31	5.30	5.41	4.65	4.73	3.72	3.77
£5,000+	4.60	4.68	3.68	3.73	4.60	4.68	4.35	4.42	3.48	3.53
HALIFAX CURRENT ACCOUNT										
£2,000+	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.80	–	–	–	–	–	–
£50 – £1,999	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	–	–	–	–	–	–
Under 18's	5.00	5.12	4.00	4.07	–	–	–	–	–	–
Student	4.00	4.07	3.20	3.25	–	–	–	–	–	–
CARDCASH										
Standard £50+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	–	–	–	–	–	–
Young Persons‡ (Under 21s)£1+	5.00	5.06	4.00	4.04	–	–	–	–	–	–
YOUNG SAVERS‡ £1+	5.00	5.06	4.00	4.04	5.00	5.06	–	–	–	–
MATURED FUNDS ACCOUNT										
£10,000+	4.55	–	3.64	–	4.55	–	4.55	–	3.64	–
£2,000+	3.95	–	3.16	–	3.95	–	3.95	–	3.16	–
Monthly Income										
£10,000+	4.46	–	3.57	–	4.46	–	4.46	–	3.57	–
£2,000+	3.88	–	3.10	–	3.88	–	3.88	–	3.10	–
TREASURERS ACCOUNT										
£2,500+	4.90	–	3.92	–	–	–	4.90	–	3.92	–
£500+	4.35	–	3.48	–	–	–	4.35	–	3.48	–
£1+	0.85	–	0.68	–	–	–	0.85	–	0.68	–
CLOSED ISSUES (Not available to new customers)										
TESSA Gold	7.50	–	–	–	7.50	–	–	–	–	–
Including maturity bonus	7.61	–	–	–	7.61	–	–	–	–	–
Halifax TESSA	7.00	–	–	–	7.00	–	–	–	–	–
Including maturity bonus	7.78	–	–	–	7.78	–	–	–	–	–
Special Reserve Bond £10,000+	6.80	–	5.44	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Halifax Extra One Year Bond £10,000+	7.25	–	5.80	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

POINTS TO NOTE. Interest will be paid net after the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) has been deducted unless you have completed a registration form and made a declaration to comply with Inland Revenue regulations. The net rates shown, which are only examples and have been rounded, assume the lower rate of income tax has been taken off. All interest rates quoted may change. ‡Special rates of interest on certain accounts paid to savings and Cardcash customers who appear in our records as being under 21. If your savings or Cardcash or Halifax Current Account balance is less than £50 you will not receive any interest unless you appear in our records as being under 21 (under 18 or a student for Halifax Current Account). Compounded annual rates (C.A.R.) apply when full interest remains in your account. †The non-resident rates of interest are payable to individuals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK and who complete an appropriate declaration form. Bonus Gold, Solid Gold and Liquid Gold non-personal accounts (such as accounts held by clubs, charities and companies) are no longer available to new customers. Full account conditions and details of when interest is paid, and how to qualify for the TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA, Halifax TESSA 2 and Bonus Gold bonuses, are available from any Halifax branch.

HALIFAX

30th August 1997

Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax

Activists 'sent out guides on DIY anarchy'

By Lin Jenkins

FIVE anarchists and animal rights activists devoted their lives to inciting people to violent action, from burning lorries to sending explosive devices through the post, a court was told yesterday.

Four were editors of a magazine called *Green Anarchist*, whose mail order service sold the illegal material that gave instructions on how to carry out attacks. One book told how to use a condom and a cigarette lighter to make a bomb which could blow out the windows in a room, gave advice on the best catapult for breaking shop windows and explained how to put etching fluid in a "squeezy" bottle.

Suggested targets included Boots, Ladbrokes, McDonald's, butchers' shops, military bases, laboratories and "the animal abuse industry", Richard Onslow, for the prosecution, told Portsmouth Crown Court.

He said: "They all wanted criminal damage to be done. They devoted their lives to it. It was full time, it was their occupation. It was not a hobby, it was not a joke.

"This is about spraying graffiti, sling-shots through butchers' windows, paint-stripper on cars, etching fluid on lorry windows, burning lorries, burning buildings and sending explosive devices through the post."

Noel Malland, 36, of Okehampton, Devon, Paul Rogers, 33, of Southsea, Hampshire, Steven Booth, 38, of Calgate, Lancashire, Saxon Burchnall Wood, 24, of Sandhurst, Berkshire, and Simon Russell, 33, of Pevensey, East Sussex, deny conspiring together, and with Robin Webb, press officer of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), to unlawfully incite peoples unknown to commit criminal damage between January 1991 and January 1996.

Mr Onslow said: "Each defendant did this for his own needs. Some are committed anarchists, others have committed full-time views about animal rights, others have strong views about environmental issues, road-building and so on. This is not about free speech, it is about inciting others to criminal damage."

All five were linked through the magazine of which Mr Rogers became editor in March 1991. It signalled a change of policy and he wrote that it was now free "to become a more unrestrained advocate of direct action". His "survival" section carried instructions on how to place siege spikes to stop vehicles getting into fields, how to make a medieval weapon used to stop horses and how to construct chain spikes.

"*Green Anarchist* magazine actively promoted direct action, actively promoted books and magazines about it and gave encouragement and information about how to do it," Mr Onslow told the jury.

Mr Booth was the magazine's North West contact and the author of another magazine called *Lancaster Bomber*. "He was another full-time committed anarchist, an armchair revolutionary working this magazine," said Mr Onslow.

> ❛ They all wanted criminal damage to be done. They devoted their lives to it. It was not a hobby, it was not a joke ❜

He ran a column entitled "Diary of Community Resistance", which listed incidents of direct action on battery farms, butchers' shops, hunt kennels and slaughterhouse lorries throughout the country.

Mr Molland, who graduated from Plymouth University in 1993, also founded his own magazine, called *Eco Vegan*, and was animal liberation editor of *Green Anarchist*. He wrote an article parodying the *Janet and John* children's books, "instructing the most simple-minded how they could break windows". It described the characters driving down a road at night and firing a ballbearing from a catapult at a butcher's window. "Janet and John have been very naughty," it concluded.

Mr Burchnall Wood ran the magazine's mail order service. One book available, *Urban Attack*, featured a man in a balaclava holding a Molotov cocktail. It was "a primer for direct action", detailing — in its own words — "ways to hit the animal abuse industry where it hurts".

Material included instructions on making giant Molotov cocktails and a step by step guide to making a bomb from a cigarette lighter and a condom. A guide to disabling a lorry involved using superglue for the locks, sand in the fuel tank, wire cutters, paint, a screwdriver, a lawyer's bodkin for "stabbing tyres of any size with minimum noise and energy" and a potato to put in the exhaust pipe.

In a book entitled *Into the 1990s with ALF*, instructions were given on how to make an incendiary device for use inside stores, with a cigarette packet, a cheap watch, a soldering iron, timer and matches. Other instructions featured incense sticks to make an hour-long fuse for a bomb of inflammable liquid stored in plastic bottles and soaked into sponges.

Mr Russell ran the ALF supporters' group and passed information to *Green Anarchist*. He put on the Internet details of the activities of a group called the Justice Department, which sent calendar-tube bombs to a number of targets. "The Justice Department are in effect terrorists," said Mr Onslow.

The hearing continues on Monday.

CRAWFORD BROWN/NEWSFLASH

Snap: Japanese women turned the tables on photographers as a friendship treaty with Kyoto was signed at Edinburgh council chambers

Rail chief who called for commuter guards quits

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

THE railway director pilloried over his plans to introduce "commuter guards" on trains is leaving Britain for a job abroad, but he insisted last night that he had no regrets over his idea.

Mike Turner provoked controversy last month by calling on commuters to act as part-time guards on their way to work in return for free travel.

He is leaving Great Eastern trains next month for a managerial post in the Far East but denied that he was being forced out because of the uproar. He said that the railway industry would take on the radical idea "when everything has calmed down".

Mr Turner was forced to justify his plan to John Prescott, the the Transport Secretary. The proposal prompted about 250 applications for part-time guards' jobs that the company claimed it could not fill before the commuter scheme was announced.

Mr Turner said: "The timing might have been wrong, because there are difficulties with unions who are about to ballot over industrial action. But at another time, I'm certain there would be more support within the industry and that this will happen."

The RMT union is balloting members across the country over the possibility of industrial action in protest at plans to introduce part-time posts.

Mr Turner conceded that better assurances should have been given that training would be to the same standard as that given to full-time guards.

The commuter guard scheme was planned to operate on a handful of peak-time trains running to London from the Essex coastal towns of Harwich, Clacton and Walton-on-the-Naze. Commuters would have been paid for two hours, and have free rail travel worth up to £3,500 a year.

Mr Turner said that his departure had been agreed in May, more than two months before the plans were unveiled, after the company decided to split the commercial director's position into separate jobs.

Ian Buchan, rail director of First Bus, owners of Great Eastern, said: "We supported Mike in the scheme and we still stand by it. We certainly are not dropping it." However, the company had enough applications from unemployed people and part-time workers not to need commuter guards.

Tree pest lured into sex trap

By Tim Jones

SCIENTISTS are hoping the lure of sex can help to eradicate a new pest that threatens to ravage Britain's six million acres of commercial timber plantations.

An emergency pest control operation has been mounted from the north of Scotland to Cornwall after the discovery of 20 spruce bark beetles at the Shotton Paper Mill in North Wales. Voracious and fast breeding, the eight-toothed *Ips typographus*, also known as the engraver beetle, particularly likes the Norwegian spruce that is popular for Christmas trees.

Roddie Burgess, head of plant health care for the Forestry Commission, said: "We are extremely concerned because it is regarded on the Contintent as the most aggressive of the bark beetles. It is very, very destructive. We have a sophisticated quarantine system to intercept them.

"What is particularly worrying is that timber came from a British pine forest, raising fears they have got through our safety nets and are establishing breeding colonies."

Mr Burgess said more than 100 forestry sites would have to be scrutinised for signs of the beetle. Once a colony has been identified, forestry workers erect a 5ft high pipe impregnated with a chemical cocktail. This fools the male beetles into believing it is a distressed tree and they attack it, falling into a trap from which they cannot escape. Once inside, they omit their own sex scent to attract females which follow them to certain death.

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It may be beautiful, but it certainly isn't sport

Simon Barnes believes that increasing use of the glamour card is a bonus for the spectator, but not for the athlete

Diving: Heaney-Grier

NO DOUBT about the image of the week. It looked rather like a frog about 95 per cent of the way through turning into a princess: a lengthy lady, nicely assembled and inverted, clad mostly in enormous rubber flippers and a pair of goggles. Clearly, however, a lady more goggled at than goggling.

Vive le sport. For this was Mehgan Heaney-Grier setting a new United States free-diving record by plunging 165ft beneath the Floridian waves. She also works as a model. Don't they all?

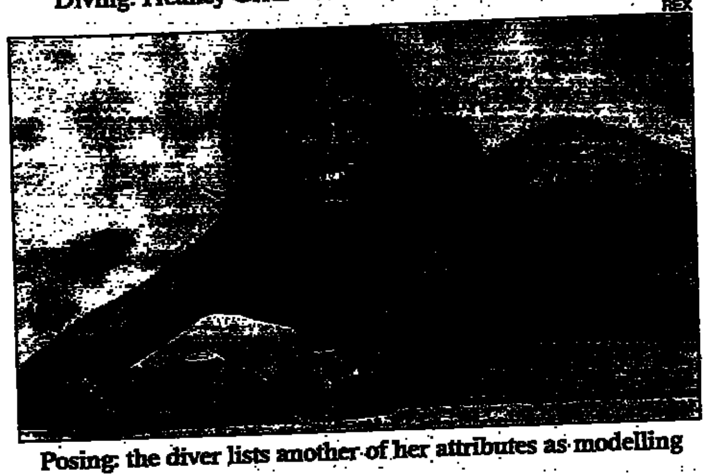
Anna Kournikova is a 16-year-old tennis-player. She has a £4 million contract with Adidas and is paid a bonus every time her picture appears in the papers in Adidas clothing. Which is often, for the baby-faced Kournikova is a comely child and newspapers, like Oscar, can resist anything except temptation. Once again, sex rears its pretty head.

Or rather, it doesn't. As the US Open tennis tournament approaches the end of the first week, we learn that, if Kournikova sleeps with her boyfriend in New York, he could be charged with statutory rape, which carries a maximum sentence of ten years in prison.

The boyfriend is Sergei Federov, an ice-hockey player with Detroit Red Wings. An obliging prosecutor said: "Mr Federov had better watch his step, or more to the point, his hands." Which stood the story up nicely and cleared the way for yet another picture of Kournikova.

A couple of weeks ago, the British heptathlete Denise Lewis created a story of her own. Lewis won a silver medal at the World Athletics Championships but that was not the story. She posed naked for a sports magazine, *Total Sport*, but with a British team running kit painted on her skin. "I'm game for almost anything," Lewis said. "You only have one life, so why not live it dangerously at times?"

REX



Posing: the diver lists another of her attributes as modelling

Clinging: Destivelle

Stripping: Lewis

A more advanced school of thought would see this not so much as living dangerously as making a sound, cautious and conservative career move. Sport is increasingly big business, its participants famous as never before, and richer as never before. The winning double of sporting achievment and beauty unlocks the hearts, minds and purses of the world.

Kournikova is a very good tennis player, but by no means a great one. She went out in the second round of the US Open this week and her opponent, Irina Spirlea, said afterwards: "It's frustrating to see the attention she gets." Kournikova said disingenuously: "It's not my fault if people write about me. I don't want them to think I am doing it on purpose." Perish the thought. She reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon this year but was then hammered by Martina Hingis, also 16. Hingis was afterwards questioned about the rivalry. "What rivalry?" she said. "I beat her." But Kournikova still gets her fat contract.

The glamour card is a growing aspect of sport. A couple of years ago at the French Open, Mary Pierce played her tennis in a Little Black Dress. Neither she nor the photographers were unaware of the drama created every time she leant forward to receive serve.

It has come to something when even gymnasts play the glamour card. A change in the rules has meant that gymnastics is no longer the exclusive preserve of pre-pubertal girls. At the Olympic Games last year, Svetlana Boginskaya, "the sphinx from Minsk", competed at the age of 23. Her lascivious floor exercise, an exhibition of the art of reeling and writhing and fainting in coils, was, to say the least, unambiguous.

There is no telling where sex will break out next. In this country, climbing is seen as something to do with beards, Damart underwear and 14 pints of Theakston's. But it has become a seriously sexy sport in France, where a lady in skintight Lycra named Catherine Destivelle was described by a friend as "a wild-haired beast, primal, instinctive and animal".

The *succès fou* of the last Olympics was beach volleyball. The sport has always been big in naturist films with titles such as *Take Off Your Clothes and Live*. The Olympics brought all this up to date, and more or less sanitised, in hot-lava Lycra and sunblock.

Sharron Davies, the former Olympic swimmer, has always traded on her looks as well as her power through the water. Two years ago, she put together a calendar of half-dressed sportswomen. It raised £10,000 for the Sports Aid Foundation, also quite a few hackles. These were not action shots of women who happened to be attractive, but out-and-out "glamour" photographs.

Naturally, Davies was unrepentant. "There is a huge drop-off rate among girls in sport at 16. If we can stop talented girls leaving sport through making it sexy, it can only be good in the long run."

The sexy sportswoman is not exactly a new idea. We can trace a line from Gorgeous Gussie Moran, through Chris Evert to Steffi Graf. We can recall lovingly the great Katarina Witt, the East German ice-skater. But the trend they set in motion is gathering pace.

Sport is about competition: beauty is only a by-product. Where the pursuit of beauty overtakes the pursuit of excellence, then sport — and its spectators — have lost their way. For a spectator to concentrate more on beauty than ability is not unpardonable. But there is an ever-greater temptation for the athletes themselves to make the same error.

The preening of Kournikova or Pierce is destructive of the single-mindedness required for sporting achievment at the highest level. This is the error that Graf never made, nor Witt. Many aspects of sport are beautiful, but the most becoming of all is excellence.

Sport, pages 38-48

MARC ASPLAND

Teasing: Kournikova is the tennis photographers' dream girl

Jumping: Boginskaya introduced sex to the floor exercises

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Single-sex education takes the laurels again

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

THIS summer's record pass rate is reflected in *The Times* GCSE league table, which is again dominated by girls' schools. The top three schools all exceed the previous best performance.

St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith, appears in first place for the third time in five years, with Birmingham's King Edward VI High School for Girls in second place. Withington Girls' School, in Manchester, which topped *The Times* A-level table, is third.

Five state schools appear in the top 50, compensating for the disappointing placings for the state system at A level. The girls of Kendrick School, in Reading, are the highest-placed, at 27th, with Reading School the top-placed boys at 51st.

Single-sex schools again fill most of the top places. Sevenoaks School, in Kent, and Bancroft's School, in northeast London, are the only fully co-educational schools in the top 50. Nationally, the pass rate for the top grades of GCSE rose slightly this summer.

The percentage reaching A* rose by 0.2 points to 3.6 per cent and A grades were up by 0.3 points to 14 per cent.

In independent schools, however, the proportion reaching A or A* rose from 43.3 per cent to 45.2 per cent. More than nine out of ten entries were awarded a C grade or better, the equivalent of the old O level.

David Woodhead, national director of the Independent Schools Information Service, said: "By every measure, this year's results from independent schools have outstripped national performances and demonstrated the wisdom of parents' investment in independent education."

The table is not exhaustive. Some of the leading state schools have not submitted their results and not all private schools belong to Isis, which publishes results for the independent sector.

The top-placed comprehensive was Haybridge High School, in Hagley, Hereford and Worcester, in 348th place. All-ability intakes in comprehensive schools make it impossible for them to compete with the selective grammar and independent schools which dominate examination league tables.

However, many bettered their own record scores this year, as the GCSE pass rate rose again. The Government is to legislate to require local authorities and schools themselves to set annual targets for improvement at GCSE.

In the independent sector, more than 15 per cent of entries were awarded A* grades, compared with a national average of 3.6 per cent, an increase of 1 per cent on 1996. The Isis list covers more than 40,000 candidates and most of the leading independent schools.

At the head of the table, big rises were registered by Oxford High School for Girls, which went from 20th to tenth place, and South Hampstead High School, from 16th to eighth. Cheltenham Ladies' College slipped from eleventh to 46th place and Manchester Grammar School from seventh to 14th.

Schools are ranked on the proportion of entries at A or A*. Where scores are level, positions are determined by the proportion at A*. Schools with fewer than 20 candidates are excluded from the table.

☐ Independent schools' results were provided by Isis; state schools' results were collected by Christina Aware Owusu, Nazanine Vali and Ilfana Vali.

Averil Burgess, page 20

GUIDE TO THE HIGHEST-RANKING STATE AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AT GCSE

State Schools in bold type	No of pupils	% A*	% A+ A*
1 St Paul's Girls' Sch London, Lond C Girls	80	60.3	95.1
2 King Edward VI HS for Girls Birmingham, W Mids Girls	78	59.1	90.8
3 Withington Girls Sch Manchester, Manch Girls	72	58.8	89.8
4 North London Collegiate Sch Edgware, Lond NW Girls	105	44.9	88.5
5 Wycombe Abbey Sch High Wycombe, Bucks Girls	79	44.7	85.4
6 Guildford HS for Girls Guildford, Surrey Girls	73	41.0	83.4
7 St Paul's Sch London, Lond SW Boys	161	44.4	83.2
8 South Hampstead HS London, Lond C Girls	94	33.7	81.0
9 Oxford HS Oxford, Oxon Girls	82	37.9	80.4
10 Winchester Coll Winchester, Hants Boys	131	32.9	80.0
11 Nottingham HS Nottingham, Notts Boys	121	32.4	79.7
12 King Edward's Sch Birmingham, W Mids Boys	127	35.7	79.1
13 City of London Sch For Girls London, Lond C Girls	73	38.5	78.5
14 Manchester Grammar Sch Manchester, Manch Boys	208	34.0	78.3
15 Central Newcastle HS Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne Girls	85	38.6	77.7
16 James Allen's Girls' Sch London, Lond C Girls	*103*	*29.8*	*77.8*
17 St Swithun's Sch Winchester, Hants Girls	68	39.0	77.4
18 King's Coll Sch London, Lond SW Boys	153	30.2	77.1
19 Haberdashers' Aske's Sch for Girls , Herts Girls	129	32.1	76.8
20 Queen's Sch Chester, Cheshire Girls	*86*	*31.4*	*76.0*
21 Eton Coll Windsor, Berks Boys	256	33.9	75.7
22 Westminster Sch London, Lond C Boys	116	34.0	75.6
23 Radley Coll Abingdon, Oxon Boys	131	26.7	75.0
24 Old Palace Sch , Croydon, Lond SE Girls	87	36.9	74.5
25 Howell's Sch, Cardiff, Wales S Girls	78	41.8	74.4
26 Perse Sch for Girls, Cambridge, Cambs Girls	87	33.5	74.2
27 Kendrick Sch, Reading, Berkshire GM Sel Girls	**93**	**26.7**	**73.8**
28 St Helen's Sch Northwood, Lond NW Girls	83	30.6	73.7
29 Godolphin & Latymer Sch London, Lond C Girls	103	31.3	73.6
30 Royal Grammar Sch Guildford, Surrey Boys	130	28.9	73.6
31 Nottingham HS for Girls Nottingham, Notts Girls	117	27.8	73.3
32 Badminton Sch Bristol, Bristol Girls	48	41.7	73.2
33 Loughborough HS Loughborough, Leics Girls	85	29.8	72.8
34 Wimbledon HS London, Lond SW Girls	82	27.0	72.4
35 Croydon HS South Croydon, Lond SE Girls	104	27.5	72.1
36 Sevenoaks Sch Sevenoaks, Kent Mix	138	25.6	72.0
37 St Albans HS for Girls St Albans, Herts Girls	82	22.5	71.8
38 Chelmsford County High Sch, Essex GM Sel Girls	**97**	**28.3**	**71.0**
39 Haberdashers' Aske's Sch Borehamwood, Herts Boys	170	35.7	70.8
40 Leeds Girls' HS Leeds, Yorks W Girls	92	34.8	70.8
41 Colchester County High Sch, Essex GM Sel Girl	**96**	**25.7**	**70.4**
42 King's Sch Chester, Cheshire Boys	73	31.0	70.0
43 Henrietta Barnett Sch, Hampstead, Ldn LEA Sel Girls	**92**	**32.7**	**69.5**
44 Sheffield HS Sheffield, Yorks S Girls	89	27.1	69.5
45 Bancroft's Sch Woodford Green, Lond NE Mix	104	29.7	69.4
46 Cheltenham Ladies' Coll Cheltenham, Glos Girls	142	29.1	69.2
47 Lady Eleanor Holles Sch Hampton, Lond SW Girls	97	26.8	69.0
48 King Edward VI Camp Hill Sch, Birmgham GM Sel Girls	**98**	**24.3**	**68.8**
49 St Mary's Sch Calne, Wilts Girls	44	23.6	68.8
50 Malvern Girls' Coll Malvern, Herworcs Girls	72	26.4	68.7
51 Reading Sch, Reading GM Sel Boys	**104**	**25.7**	**68.7**
52 St Mary's Sch South Ascot, Berks Girls	52	26.9	68.4
53 Merchant Taylors' Sch for Girls Liverpool, Mersey Mix	100	30.5	68.3
54 Downe House Thatcham, Berks Girls	82	22.4	68.3
55 Sch of St Helen & St Katharine Abingdon, Oxon Girls	73	22.8	68.0
56 Birkenhead HS Birkenhead, Mersey Girls	92	30.6	67.8
57 Hulme Grammar Sch for Girls Oldham, Manch Girls	59	29.5	67.2
58 Lancaster Royal Gram Sch, Lancaster GM Sel Boys	**113**	**27.5**	**67.0**
59 Putney HS London, Lond C Girls	79	24.6	66.8
60 King's Sch Canterbury, Kent Mix	137	22.2	66.7
61 Wolverhampton Girls' High Sch, W Mid GM Sel Girls	**91**	**25.4**	**66.5**
62 Abbey Sch Reading, Berks Mix	111	25.0	66.5
63 Ashford Sch Ashford, Kent Girls	48	35.8	66.3
64 Wakefield Girls' HS Wakefield, Yorks W Girls	100	29.2	65.9
65 Newcastle-under-Lyme Sch, Staffs Mix	172	25.9	65.7
66 King Edward's Sch Bath, Somerset Mix	85	27.4	65.6
67 Royal Grammar Sch Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne Boys	136	24.3	65.5
68 Norwich HS for Girls Norwich, Norfolk Girls	105	24.5	65.3
69 Charterhouse Godalming, Surrey Mix	132	25.3	65.2
70 University Coll Sch London, Lond C Boys	98	24.7	65.2
71 Bradford Grammar Sch Bradford, Yorks W Mix	138	23.2	64.7
72 Latymer Sch, Edmonton, London GM Sel Mix	**183**	**22.3**	**64.7**
73 Belvedere Sch Liverpool, Mersey Girls	70	29.9	64.6
74 Channing Sch London, Lond NE Girls	47	21.8	64.4
75 Notting Hill & Ealing HS GPDS London, Lond NW Girls	83	24.4	64.3
76 Queenswood Sch Hatfield, Herts Girls	71	23.6	64.3
77 Ipswich HS Ipswich, Suffolk Girls	72	26.5	64.2
78 King Edward VI GramSch, Chelmsford, GM Sel Boys	**88**	**15.8**	**64.1**
79 Perse Sch Cambridge, Cambs Mix	78	26.3	64.0
80 Clitheroe Royal Grammar Sch, Lancs GM Sel Mix	**124**	**25.0**	**63.8**
81 Newstead Wood Sch, Orpington, Kent GM Sel Girls	**112**	**22.0**	**63.6**
82 Portsmouth Grammar Sch Portsmouth, Hants Mix	138	19.3	63.3
83 Bury Grammar Sch (Girls) Bury, Lancs Mix	120	25.0	63.2
84 Tiffin Girls Sch, Kingston Upon Thames LEA Sel Girls	**118**	**18.3**	**63.0**
85 Bromley HS Bromley, Lond SE Girls	94	20.8	61.9
86 Stockport Grammar Sch Stockport, Manch Mix	143	25.8	61.8
87 Bradford Girls' Grammar Sch Bradford, Yorks W Girls	107	24.8	61.7
88 Bolton Sch (Girls) Bolton, Lancs Mix	111	21.1	61.7
89 Queen Mary's High Sch, Walsall GM Sel Girls	**99**	**15.3**	**61.6**
90 Norwich Sch Norwich, Norfolk Boys	93	23.6	61.5
91 Cheadle Hulme Sch Cheadle, Cheshire Mix	159	21.4	61.2
92 King's HS for Girls Warwick, W'Wicks Girls	86	19.7	61.1
93 Maynard Sch Exeter, Devon Girls	68	19.1	61.1
94 Sutton HS Sutton, Lond SW Girls	90	22.2	60.9
95 St Catherine's Sch Guildford, Surrey Girls	75	19.1	60.9
96 Abingdon Sch Abingdon, Oxon Boys	137	23.2	60.8
97 Queen Margaret's Sch York, Yorks N Girls	63	24.5	60.7
98 Heathfield Sch Ascot, Berks Girls	22	22.7	60.7
99 Sir William Perkins's Sch Chertsey, Surrey Girls	92	20.5	60.7
100 Parkstone Grammar Sch, Poole, Dorset GM Sel Girls	**146**	**18.5**	**60.6**
101 Dr Challoner's High Sch For Girls, Bucks GM Sel Girls	**144**	**23.4**	**60.4**
102 Whitgift Sch South Croydon, Lond SE Boys	150	21.3	60.2
103 King Edward VI Handsworth, Bham GM Sel Girls	***128***	***19.3***	***60.2***
104 Oundle Sch Peterborough, N'Hants Mix	179	23.1	60.1
105 Woodford County High Sch, Redbridge LEA Sel Girls	**119**	**25.0**	**60.0**
106 St Peter's Sch York, Yorks N Mix	98	27.4	59.6
107 Casterton Sch Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria Mix	*47*	*18.7*	*59.5*
108 Pate's Grammar Sch, Cheltenham, Glos GM Sel Mix	**120**	**22.1**	**59.1**
109 City of London Sch London, Lond C Boys	129	20.4	59.1
110 Roedean Sch Brighton, Sussex E Girls	70	23.9	59.0
111 Lancaster Girls' Grammar Sch, Lancaster GM Sel Girls	***95***	***23.4***	***59.0***
112 Chetham's Sch of Music Manchester, Manch Mix	41	29.4	58.9
113 Red Maids' Sch Bristol, Bristol Girls	81	22.2	58.9
114 Francis Holland Sch Clarence Gate London, Lond C Girls	56	17.9	58.6
115 Francis Holland Sch London, Lond C Girls	30	20.2	58.5
116 Brighton & Hove HS Brighton, Sussex E Girls	84	16.4	58.5
117 King Edward VI Camp Hill Sch, Birmghm GM Sel Boys	**93**	**22.0**	**58.4**
118 Merchant Taylors' Sch Liverpool, Mersey Boys	106	21.0	58.3
119 St George's Sch Ascot, Berks Girls	54	16.5	58.2
120 Dame Alice Harpur Sch Bedford, Beds Girls	106	20.8	58.0
121 Talbot Heath Sch Bournemouth, Dorset Mix	59	17.9	57.8
122 Dulwich Coll London, Lond C Boys	199	17.7	57.8
123 Manchester HS for Girls Manchester, Manch Girls	114	16.2	57.8
124 Sutton Coldfield Girl's Sch, W Midlands LEA Sel Girls	**147**	**14.9**	**57.7**
125 Tonbridge Sch Tonbridge, Kent Boys	144	20.8	57.6
126 Tudor Hall Sch Banbury, Oxon Girls	44	10.3	57.6
127 Loughborough Gram Sch Loughborough, Leics Boys	141	22.8	57.5
128 Merchant Taylors' Sch Northwood, Lond NW Boys	139	19.9	57.3
129 Westholme Sch Blackburn, Lancs Mix	102	15.6	57.3
130 St Olave's & St Saviours GS, Orpington GM Sel Boys	**94**	**24.3**	**57.1**
131 Leicester Grammar Sch Leicester, Leics Mix	91	15.6	57.1
132 Haberdashers' Monmouth Sch for Girls , S Wales Girls	75	*19.3*	*56.8*
133 Benenden Sch Cranbrook, Kent Girls	81	15.4	56.8
134 Ermysted's GramSch, Skipton, N Yorks Vol Sel Boys	**85**	**18.9**	**56.6**
135 Hymers Coll Hull, Yorks E Mix	103	19.4	56.5
136 Bath HS Bath, Somerset Girls	65	15.9	56.5
137 Headington Sch Oxford, Oxon Mix	72	22.1	56.3
138 Bolton Sch (Boys) Bolton, Lancs Boys	136	19.1	55.9
139 Stratford Upon Avon Gram Sch, Warwicks LEA Sel Girls	**65**	**17.2**	**55.5**
140 Queen Elizabeth's Hospital Bristol, Bristol Boys	82	14.3	55.3
141 Heathfield Sch Pinner, Lond NW Girls	43	21.1	55.1
142 Dame Allan's Girls' Sch Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne Girls	60	21.1	54.7
143 Strathearn Sch, Belfast Vol Sel Girls	**123**	**13.2**	**54.7**
144 St Mary's Sch Cambridge, Cambs Girls	89	15.0	54.5
145 Durham HS for Girls Durham, Durham Girls	35	21.9	54.4
146 Bablake Sch Coventry, W Mids Mix	134	17.0	54.4
147 St Martin's Solihull, W Mids Girls	37	13.9	54.4
148 Derby HS Derby, Derbys Mix	49	18.4	54.3
149 Tonbridge GramSch For Girls, Kent GM Sel Girls	**147**	**16.2**	**54.2**
150 Northwood Coll Northwood, Lond NW Girls	63	15.7	54.1
151 Godolphin Sch Salisbury, Wilts Girls	54	12.4	54.1
152 Leeds Grammar Sch Leeds, Yorks W Boys	133	20.8	54.0
153 Wolverhampton GramSch W Mids Mix	87	18.6	54.0
154 Queen Elizabeth Gram Sch Wakefield, Yorks W Boys	107	16.7	53.7
155 Altrincham GramSch For Girls, Cheshire GM Sel Girls	**163**	**24.0**	**53.6**
156 Bristol Grammar Sch Bristol, Bristol Mix	149	21.0	53.6
157 Bedford HS Bedford, Beds Girls	120	19.0	53.6
158 Westcliffe High Sch For Girls, Essex GM Sel Girls	**131**	**16.0**	**53.5**
159 Hampton Sch Hampton, Lond SW Boys	150	14.2	53.5
160 Royal Gram Sch, High Wycombe, Bucks GM Sel Boys	**188**	**15.5**	**53.4**
161 Latymer Upper Sch London, Lond C Boys	140	15.3	53.2
162 British Sch of Brussels HMC	75	21.7	53.1
163 Queen Anne's Sch Caversham, Berks Girls	51	18.1	53.1
164 St Patrick's Girls' Acdmy, Dungannon, NI Vol Sel Girls	**124**	**14.4**	**53.1**
165 St Dunstan's Abbey Sch Plymouth, Devon Mix	26	16.1	53.0
166 Sherborne Sch For Girls Sherborne, Dorset Girls	84	15.6	52.8
167 Portsmouth HS Southsea, Hants Girls	86	18.3	52.4
168 Judd Sch, Tonbridge, Kent Vol Boys Sel	**109**	**17.6**	**52.1**
169 Alice Ottley Sch Worcester, Herworcs Girls	71	20.3	51.9
170 Rugby Sch Rugby, W'Wicks Mix	124	18.3	51.6
171 Solihull Sch Solihull, W Mids Mix	114	14.5	51.6
172 St Micheal's Catholic Grammar Sch, London GM Sel Girls	**94**	**15.3**	**51.5**
173 Sherborne Sch Sherborne, Dorset Boys	124	14.8	51.4
174 Queen's Coll London London, Lond C Girls	51	13.4	51.4
175 Purcell Sch of Music SHMIS Bushey, Herts Mix	23	16.4	51.3
176 King Edward VI Sch Southampton, Hants Mix	143	15.3	51.3
177 St Mary's Sch Shaftesbury, Dorset Girls	47	15.7	51.2
178 Harrow Sch Harrow on the Hill, Lond NW Boys	136	14.2	51.1
179 Blue Coat School, Liverpool LEA Comp Boys	**121**	**14.9**	**51.0**
180 Northampton HS Northampton, N'Hants Girls	87	14.2	51.0
181 Harrogate Ladies' Coll Harrogate, Yorks N Girls	57	15.9	50.9
182 Newcastle U Tyne Church HS Newcastle U Tyne, Tyne Girls	48	15.8	50.8
183 Berkhamsted Collegiate Sch Berkhamsted, Herts Mix	149	17.5	50.7
184 Notre Dame Senior Sch Cobham, Surrey Girls	40	16.2	50.7
185 Edgbaston HS for Girls Birmingham, W Mids Girls	71	19.5	50.5
186 Tormead Sch Guildford, Surrey Girls	71	18.9	50.5
187 Yarm Sch Yarm, Tees Mix	49	16.5	50.5
188 Walthamstow Hall Sevenoaks, Kent Girls	45	13.6	50.5
189 Rydal Penrhos Snr Sch Colwyn Bay, Wales N Girls	37	20.7	50.3
190 Warwick Sch Warwick, W'Wicks Boys	141	17.5	50.3
191 Colyton Grammar Sch, Colyford, Devon GM Sel Mix	**102**	**16.3**	**50.1**
192 Torquay Boys' Grammar Sch, Devon GM Sel Boys	**132**	**16.6**	**50.0**
193 South Wiltshire GS, Salisbury, Wilts GM Sel Girls	**120**	**14.0**	**50.0**
194 Epsom Coll Epsom, Surrey Mix	112	16.5	49.9
195 Royal Sch Haslemere, Surrey Girls	53	15.3	49.9
196 Dartford Grammar Sch, Kent GM Sel Girls	**137**	**12.4**	**49.9**
197 St John's College, Cardiff Mix	152	19.6	49.8
198 Alleyn's Sch London, Lond C Mix	128	15.3	49.8
199 Trinity Sch Croydon, Lond SE Boys	124	16.2	49.7
200 Kingston Gram Sch Kingston upon Thames, Mix	98	15.6	49.7
201 Rougemont Sch SHMIS Newport, Wales S Mix	21	19.8	49.5
202 Moreton Hall Sch Oswestry, Salop Girls	38	16.2	49.3
203 Notre Dame Sch Lingfield, Surrey Mix	43	13.8	49.3
204 Wykeham House Sch Fareham, Hants Girls	35	21.6	49.2
205 Magdalen Coll Sch Oxford, Oxon Boys	77	13.5	49.2
206 Surbiton HS Kingston Upon Thames, Lond SW Mix	91	14.9	49.1
207 St Bede's Coll Manchester, Manch Mix	138	16.5	49.0
208 Newport Girls, Shrops LEA Sel Girls	**300**	**10.3**	**49.0**
209 Gravesend Gram Sch, Gravesend, Kent GM Sel Girls	**140**	**14.2**	**48.9**
210 Grange Sch Northwich, Cheshire Mix	98	14.3	48.8
211 Woldingham Sch Woldingham, Surrey Girls	82	15.8	48.7
212 Repton Sch Derby, Derbys Mix	100	14.1	48.6
213 Shrewsbury HS Shrewsbury, Salop Girls	75	14.8	48.5
214 Teesside HS for Girls Stockton-on-Tees, Tees Girls	62	14.7	48.5
215 Highgate Sch London, Lond NE Boys	132	14.2	48.5
216 Redland HS Bristol, Bristol Girls	68	16.2	48.3
217 Ladies Coll Guernsey, CI Mix	53	14.0	48.3
218 Canford Sch Wimborne, Dorset Mix	76	17.4	47.9
219 Queen Mary's Sch IAPS Thirsk, Yorks N Girls	26	9.9	47.8
220 Colchester Royal Grammar Sch, Essex GM Sel Boys	**96**	**12.5**	**47.5**
221 Wallington Girls High Sch, Wallington GM Sel Girls	**128**	**12.7**	**47.4**
222 Kingswood Sch Bath, Somerset Mix	71	19.6	47.3
223 Exeter Sch Exeter, Devon Mix	109	11.8	47.3
224 Dame Allan's Boys' Sch Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne Boys	51	11.5	47.3
225 Monmouth Sch Monmouth, Wales S Boys	97	13.0	47.1
226 St Francis' Coll Letchworth, Herts Girls	38	15.0	47.0
227 Dauntsey's Sch Devizes, Wilts Mix	118	14.5	47.0
228 Truro Sch Truro, Cornwall Mix	114	13.7	47.0
229 Eltham Coll London, Lond SE Mix	78	16.6	46.9
230 Queen's Gate Sch London, Lond C Girls	37	16.8	46.8
231 St Leonards-Mayfield Sch Mayfield, Sussex E Girls	81	13.6	46.8
232 Luckley-Oakfield Sch Wokingham, Berks Girls	52	14.5	46.4
233 Shrewsbury Sch Shrewsbury, Salop Boys	151	12.1	46.4
234 New Hall Sch Chelmsford, Essex Girls	61	15.8	46.2
235 Dean Close Sch Cheltenham, Glos Mix	91	14.0	46.2
236 Streatham Hill & Clapham HS G London, Lond C Girls	59	11.9	46.2
237 Birkenhead Sch Birkenhead, Mersey Boys	94	17.7	46.0
238 Skinners Sch, Kent GM SEL Boys	**108**	**13.2**	**46.0**
239 Dr Challoner's GS, Amersham, Bucks LEA Sel Boys	**192**	**11.0**	**46.0**
240 Truro HS for Girls Truro, Cornwall Mix	44	6.5	46.0
241 Wells Cathedral Sch Wells, Somerset Mix	99	18.3	45.8
242 Dunottar Sch Reigate, Surrey Girls	53	15.7	45.7
243 Clifton HS Bristol, Bristol Mix	65	15.0	45.7
244 Highclare Sch Birmingham, W Mids Mix	34	14.0	45.6
245 Kent Coll Pembury Pembury, Kent Girls	38	19.1	45.5
246 Christ's Hospital Horsham, Sussex W Mix	124	13.4	45.5
247 King Henry VIII Coventry, W Mids Mix	120	12.4	45.5
248 Stamford HS for Girls Stamford, Lincs Girls	116	12.1	45.4
249 Aylesbury Grammar, Bucks LEA Sel Boys	**179**	**13.6**	**45.3**
250 Bishop Wordsworth Sch, Salbry, Wilts GM Sel Boys	**118**	**15.6**	**45.1**
251 St Teresa's Sch Dorking, Surrey Girls	54	12.3	45.1
252 Tiffin Boys Sch, London LEA Sel Boys	**118**	**12.2**	**45.1**
253 Sacred Heart Grammar, Newry, Co GM Sel Girls	**122**	**9.9**	**45.0**
254 Bruton Sch for Girls Bruton, Somerset Girls	88	16.1	44.9
255 Queen's Coll Taunton, Somerset Mix	77	15.1	44.9
256 Wycombe High, Bucks Vol Sel Girls	**233**	**11.4**	**44.8**
257 Rainham Mark Grammar Sch, Kent GM Sel Mix	**167**	**12.3**	**44.5**
258 Ipswich Sch Ipswich, Suffolk Mix	75	14.8	44.4
259 Marlborough Coll Marlborough, Wilts Mix	144	11.6	44.4
260 Caistor Grammar Sch, Lincs GM Sel Mix	**90**	**8.2**	**44.2**
261 Farnborough Hill Farnborough, Hants Girls	95	14.0	44.1
262 West Kirby GS for Girls, Merseyside LEA Sel Girls	**186**	**12.7**	**44.1**
263 Felsted Sch Dunmow, Essex Mix	64	11.9	44.1
264 Worth Sch Crawley, Sussex W Boys	59	9.6	44.1
265 Royal Grammar Sch Worcester, Herworcs Boys	133	14.8	44.0
266 Norton Knatchbull Sch, Ashford, Kent Vol Sel Boys	**120**	**12.3**	**44.0**
267 Birkdale Sch Sheffield, Yorks S Mix	72	10.0	44.0
268 St Elphin's Sch Matlock, Derbys Mix	25	22.0	43.9
269 Heckmondwike Grammar Sch, W Yorks GM Sel Mix	**119**	**14.4**	**43.9**
270 Rugby High School, Warks GM Sel Girls	**91**	**10.9**	**43.9**
271 Hammond Sch Chester, Cheshire Mix	28	11.1	43.8
272 Polam Hall Sch Darlington, Durham Girls	52	21.2	43.7
273 John Lyon Sch Harrow, Lond NW Boys	78	8.8	43.6
274 Weald Of Kent GS, Tonbridge, Kent GM Sel Girls	**118**	**11.9**	**43.5**
275 Arnold Sch Blackpool, Lancs Mix	129	11.8	43.4
276 St Alban's Sch, Herts LEA Sel Girls	**164**	**15.3**	**43.3**
277 Haileybury Hertford, Herts Mix	106	14.0	43.3
278 Queen Mary's Gram Sch, Walsall, W Mids GM Sel Boys	**94**	**13.1**	**43.3**
279 Austin Friars Sch Carlisle, Cumbria Mix	42	16.1	43.2
280 Ripon Grammar Sch, Ripon, N Yorks LEA Sel Mix	**109**	**13.5**	**43.2**
281 Bedales Sch Petersfield, Hants Mix	81	11.8	43.2
282 Croham Hurst Sch South Croydon, Lond SE Girls	62	13.5	43.1
283 Northamptonshire Grammar Sch, Northants Mix	20	18.0	43.0
284 St Bees Sch St Bees, Cumbria Mix	40	15.0	42.8
285 Oakham Sch Oakham, Leics Mix	167	13.5	42.8
286 Bryanston Sch Blandford, Dorset Mix	134	12.9	42.8
287 Red House Sch Ltd Stockton-on-Tees, Tees Mix	34	14.4	42.6
288 Tower Coll Rainhill, Mersey Mix	27	10.3	42.6
289 City of London Freemen's Sch Ashtead Park, Surrey Mix	106	15.1	42.5
290 British Sch in The Netherlands HMC	74	10.4	42.5
291 Burgess Hill Sch Burgess Hill, Sussex W Girls	*67*	*14.8*	*42.3*
292 Folkestone Sch For Girls, Folkestone GM Sel Girls	**131**	**13.3**	**42.3**
293 Reigate Grammar Sch Reigate, Surrey Mix	108	10.8	42.2
294 St Albans Sch St Albans, Herts Mix	95	9.6	42.2
295 Southend HS for Girls, Southend, Essex GM Sel Girls	***128***	***7.68***	***42.1***
296 Altrincham GS, Altrincham, Cheshire GM Sel Boys	**146**	**14.3**	**42.1**
297 Leicester HS for Girls Leicester, Leics Girls	35	9.1	42.1
298 Bury Grammar Sch Bury, Lancs Boys	108	9.1	42.0
299 St Mary's Coll Liverpool, Mersey Mix	*92*	*8.9*	*42.0*
300 Downside Sch Bath, Somerset Boys	55	14.1	41.8
301 St Mary's Sch Colchester, Essex Girls	52	7.3	41.8
302 Dartford Grammar Sch, Dartford, Kent GM Sel Boys	***140***	***11.4***	***41.7***
303 Cheltenham Coll Cheltenham, Glos Mix	110	16.0	41.3
304 St Nicholas' Sch Fleet, Hants Mix	32	11.9	41.3
305 Crossley Heath Sch, Halifax, W Yorks GM Sel Mix	**116**	**10.3**	**41.3**
306 Queen Elizabeth's Grammar Sch Blackburn, Lancs Mix	135	13.3	41.1
307 Kingsley Sch Leamington Spa, W'Wicks Mix	60	16.3	41.0
308 Sir Roger Manwood's Sch, Sandwich, Kent GM Sel Mix	**97**	**13.0**	**41.0**
309 Gresham's Sch Holt, Norfolk Mix	117	11.2	41.0
St Anne's Sch Windermere, Cumbria Mix	37	11.2	41.0
311 Aylesbury High Sch, Bucks LEA Sel Girls	**180**	**11.0**	**41.0**
312 Maidstone Grammar Sch for Girls, Kent LEA Sel Girls	**180**	**10.0**	**41.0**
313 St Benedict's Sch London, Lond NW Mix	91	17.7	40.9
314 Banbridge Academy, Banbridge LEA Mix	**132**	**11.6**	**40.9**
315 Oratory Sch Reading, Berks Boys	88	14.1	40.8
316 Rye St Antony Sch Oxford, Oxon Mix	48	12.8	40.8
317 Bradfield Coll Reading, Berks Mix	107	11.6	40.8
318 Brighton Coll Brighton, Sussex E Mix	99	11.0	40.8
319 Queen Elizabeth's GS, Horncastle, Lincs GM Sel Mix	***108***	***11.5***	***40.7***
320 Sch of S Mary & S Anne Rugeley, Staffs Girls	46	11.1	40.7
321 Wellington Coll Crowthorne, Berks Mix	149	10.4	40.7
322 Prior's Field Godalming, Surrey Girls	50	12.6	40.5
323 King's Sch Macclesfield, Cheshire Mix	151	14.9	40.4
324 St Edward's Sch Oxford, Oxon Mix	108	10.1	40.4
325 Ashville Coll Harrogate, Yorks N Mix	91	12.0	40.2
326 Lancing Coll Lancing, Sussex W Mix	77	9.7	40.2
327 Lincoln Minster Sch Lincoln, Lincs Mix	37	12.6	40.0
328 King Edward VI, Aston, Birmingham GM Sel Boys	**90**	**12.0**	**40.0**
329 More House Sch London, Lond C Girls	34	11.1	39.9
330 Queen Mary Sch Lytham, Lancs Mix	75	14.2	39.8
331 Meoncross Sch Fareham, Hants Mix	31	13.6	39.8
332 Bishop's Stortford Coll Bishop's Stortford, Herts Mix	52	13.1	39.8
333 Ampleforth Coll York, Yorks N Boys	92	12.7	39.8
334 Hull HS Anlaby, Yorks E Mix	22	11.4	39.8
335 Westcliff High Sch for Boys, Essex GM Sel Boys	**128**	**10.5**	**39.8**
336 Palmers Green HS London, Lond NE Girls	25	9.0	39.8
337 St Mary's Convent Sch Worcester, Herworcs Mix	25	14.2	39.7
338 King's Coll Taunton, Somerset Mix	81	10.5	39.6
339 King Alfred Sch London, Lond NW Mix	47	10.0	39.6
340 St Patrick's Grammar Sch, Armagh Vol Sel Boys	**119**	**7.6**	**39.6**
341 Wellington Sch Wellington, Somerset Mix	114	12.9	39.5
342 St Mary's Sch Wantage, Oxon Girls	35	9.5	39.5
343 Dixie Gram & Wolstan Prep Schs Nuneaton, Leics Mix	48	11.2	39.4
344 Amberfield Sch Ipswich, Suffolk Mix	35	11.5	39.3
345 Bootham Sch York, Yorks N Mix	52	18.0	39.2
346 Bedford Sch Bedford, Beds Boys	139	10.3	39.2
347 Bourne Grammar Sch, Bourne LEA Sel Mix	**138**	**10.1**	**39.2**
348 Haybridge High Sch, Hagley, Worcs LEA Comp Mix	**148**	**8.7**	**39.2**
349 Highworth Grammar Sch, Ashford, Kent LEA Sel Girls	**129**	**9.7**	**39.1**
350 St Gabriels Sch Newbury, Berks Girls	26	7.7	39.1
351 Maidstone Grammar Sch, Kent LEA Sel Boys	**175**	**11.0**	**39.0**
352 Down High Sch, Down Patrick LEA Sel Mix	**114**	**8.0**	**39.0**
353 Antrim Grammar School, Antrim LEA Sel Mix	**116**	**11.6**	**38.9**
354 Woodbridge Sch Woodbridge, Suffolk Mix	94	10.6	38.9
355 Mount Sch York, Yorks N Mix	36	10.5	38.9
356 Cranleigh Sch Cranleigh, Surrey Mix	83	10.4	38.9
Devonport HS for Boys, Plymouth, Dev GM Sel Boys	**128**	**10.4**	**38.9**
358 Blackheath HS Blackheath, Lond SE Girls	46	9.4	38.9
359 Gateways Sch Leeds, Yorks W Mix	29	10.6	38.8
360 Mill Hill Sch London, Lond NW Mix	90	9.0	38.8
361 Hereford Cathedral Sch Hereford, Herworcs Mix	86	6.0	38.8
362 Scarisbrick Hall Sch Ormskirk, Lancs Mix	32	11.0	38.8
363 Ardingly Coll Haywards Heath, Sussex W Mix	100	10.0	38.5
364 Stamford Sch Stamford, Lincs Boys	110	7.5	38.5
365 Manor House Sch Little Bookham, Surrey Mix	28	3.7	38.5
366 Watford Grammar Sch for Girls, Herts GM Comp Girls	**179**	**11.9**	**38.4**
367 Ballyclare High Sch, Antrim LEA Sel Mix	**163**	**7.8**	**38.3**
368 Chigwell Sch Chigwell, Essex Mix	74	12.0	38.1
369 Scarborough Coll Scarborough, Yorks N Mix	68	11.9	38.1
370 Lady Margaret S, Parsons Green, Ldn LEA Comp Girls	**87**	**10.4**	**38.0**
371 Sir William Borlase's GS, Marlow, Bucks LEA Sel Mix	**145**	**10.0**	**38.0**
372 Bromsgrove Sch Bromsgrove, Herworcs Mix	140	12.1	37.9
373 St Margaret's Sch for Girls Exeter, Devon Girls	55	8.6	37.9
374 Caldy Grange Gram Sch, W Kirby, Wirral GM Sel Boys	**178**	**8.0**	**37.9**
375 Coopers Coborn Sch, Essex GM Comp Mix	**182**	**11.3**	**37.8**
376 Malvern Coll Malvern, Herworcs Mix	104	10.1	37.7
377 Bournemouth Sch, Bournemouth GM Sel Boys	**142**	**11.7**	**37.6**
378 Dame Alice Owen's, Potters Bar, Herts GM Comp Mix	**188**	**10.9**	**37.6**
379 Old Swinford Hospital, W Midlands GM Comp Boys	**91**	**12.6**	**37.5**
380 Ackworth Sch Pontefract, Yorks W Mix	73	11.2	37.5
381 Hethersett Old Hall Sch Norwich, Norfolk Girls	40	9.9	37.2
382 Beaconsfield High, Bucks GM Sel Girls	**136**	**18.6**	**37.0**
383 Ockbrook Sch Ockbrook, Derbys Mix	30	8.0	37.0
384 Sir Henry Floyd Grammar Sch, Aylesbury LEA Sel Mix	**144**	**7.8**	**37.0**
385 Bedford Modern Sch Bedford, Beds Boys	163	6.8	36.9
386 Sydenham HS London, Lond C Girls	76	10.2	36.8
387 Nonsuch HS for Girls, Cheam, Surrey GM Sel Girls	**132**	**9.6**	**36.8**
388 Porta College, Armagh LEA Sel Mix	**212**	**6.8**	**36.8**
389 St Margaret's Sch Bushey, Herts Girls	61	7.8	36.6
390 Queen Elizabeth' HS, Gainsborough LEA Sel Mix	**156**	**8.7**	**36.5**
391 Holy Trinity Sch Kidderminster, Herworcs Mix	22	7.8	36.5
392 Simon Langton GS, Canterbury GM Sel Boys	**91**	**7.7**	**36.5**
393 Colfe's Sch London, Lond C Boys	97	8.3	36.4
394 Chislehurst and Sidcup GS, Kent LEA Sel Mix	**177**	**7.9**	**36.4**
395 Emanuel Sch London, Lond C Mix	119	9.4	36.2
396 Rendcomb Coll Cirencester, Glos Mix	33	7.7	36.1
397 Abbotsholme Sch Uttoxeter, Derbys Mix	49	14.7	36.0
398 St Dominic's Sch Brewood, Staffs Mix	43	12.6	36.0
399 Wallington County GS, Surrey GM Sel Boys	**120**	**9.2**	**36.0**
400 St Edmund's Sch Canterbury, Kent Mix	45	10.8	35.9
401 Rochester Girls GS, Rochester, Kent GM Sel Girls	**114**	**8.2**	**35.8**
402 Harvey Grammar Sch, Folkestone, Kent LEA Sel Boys	**140**	**6.4**	**35.8**
403 Stonyhurst Coll Clitheroe, Lancs Mix	76	10.9	35.7
404 Moira House Sch Eastbourne, Sussex E Girls	40	10.2	35.7
405 Giggleswick Sch Settle, Yorks N Mix	59	10.7	35.5
406 St Dunstan's Coll London, Lond C Mix	92	7.8	35.5
407 St Michael's Sch Llanelli, Wales S Mix	41	13.5	35.4
408 St Columba's Coll St Albans, Herts Boys	90	9.1	35.4
409 Blundell's Sch Tiverton, Devon Mix	64	7.8	35.4
410 King's Sch Worcester, Herworcs Mix	128	11.9	35.3
411 Stafford Grammar Sch Stafford, Staffs Mix	49	9.6	35.3
412 Rydal Penrhos Snr Sch (Co-ed Div) Colwyn Bay, Wales N Mix	52	11.2	35.1
413 Arts Educational Sch Tring, Herts Mix	39	10.2	35.1
414 Plymouth Coll Plymouth, Devon Mix	72	12.6	35.0
415 St James Independent Sch for Boys Twickenham, Boys	37	10.9	35.0
416 Cranbrook Sch, Cranbrook, Kent GM Sel Mix	**146**	**8.9**	**35.0**
417 Poole Grammar Sch, Poole GM Sel Boys	**144**	**8.0**	**35.0**
418 Silverdale Sch, Sheffield LEA Comp Mix	**184**	**7.7**	**35.0**
419 Urmston Grammar Sch, Urmston, Trafford GM Sel Mix	**148**	**12.0**	**34.9**
420 Wirral Grammar Sch, Bebington GM Sel Boys	**146**	**9.9**	**34.9**
421 Hasmonean High Sch, London GM Comp Mix	**117**	**11.6**	**34.8**
422 Dover Grammar Sch for Boys, Dover, Kent GM Sel Boys	**68**	**8.4**	**34.7**
423 Ibstock Place Sch London, Lond C Mix	35	8.0	34.7
424 Brentwood Sch Brentwood, Essex Mix	194	7.8	34.7
425 St Gerards Sch Bangor, Wales N Mix	48	17.1	34.6
426 Holy Trinity Coll Bromley, Lond SE Mix	41	7.6	34.5
427 Queen Ethelburga's Coll York, Yorks N Mix	30	2.5	34.5
428 King's Sch, Grantham, Lincs GM Sel Boys	**124**	**8.6**	**34.4**
429 Lawrence Sheriff Sch, Rugby LEA Sel Boys	**95**	**7.5**	**34.4**
430 Colston's Girls' Sch Bristol, Bristol Girls	75	7.0	34.3
431 Stover Sch Newton Abbot, Devon Girls	29	6.3	34.3
432 St Edward's Coll Liverpool, Mersey Mix	113	11.7	34.1
433 Wellingborough Sch Wellingborough, N'Hants Mix	81	9.1	34.1
434 Churcher's Coll Petersfield, Hants Mix	97	8.8	34.1
435 Prior Park Coll Bath, Somerset Mix	83	8.7	34.1
436 Sutton Valence Sch Maidstone, Kent Mix	59	7.9	34.1
437 King Edward VI, Five Ways, Birmingham GM Sel Boys	**94**	**8.3**	**34.0**
438 Sir Thomas Rich's, Gloucester LEA Sel Boys	**90**	**6.0**	**34.0**
439 Our Lady's Convent Senior Sch Abingdon, Oxon Girls	56	11.2	33.9
440 St Dominic's Priory Sch Stone, Staffs Mix	34	10.7	33.9
441 Abbey Gate Coll Chester, Cheshire Mix	45	9.1	33.8
442 Forest Boys' Sch London, Lond NE Boys	95	7.0	33.8
443 Taunton Sch Taunton, Somerset Mix	99	9.3	33.6
444 Royal Sch Bath, Somerset Mix	36	8.9	33.6
445 Eastbourne Coll Eastbourne, Sussex E Mix	75	7.8	33.6
446 Wychwood Sch Oxford, Oxon Girls	27	4.7	33.6
447 Howell's Sch Denbigh, Wales N Girls	26	8.8	33.5
448 Skegness Grammar Schl, Lincs GM Mix Sel	**105**	**7.7**	**33.5**
449 Oswestry Sch Oswestry, Salop Mix	55	10.7	33.4
450 West Buckland Sch Barnstaple, Devon Mix	68	8.8	33.4
451 St Antony's-Leweston Sch Sherborne, Dorset Girls	49	6.6	33.4
452 Leighton Park Sch Reading, Berks Mix	56	10.9	33.3
453 La Sagesse HS Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne Girls	56	10.8	33.3
454 Atherley Sch Southampton, Hants Mix	59	9.2	33.3
455 King's Sch Bruton, Somerset Mix	61	7.9	33.3
456 Royal Sch Dungannon, N Ire Mix	110	6.4	33.3
457 Park Sch for Girls Ilford, Essex Girls	28	5.8	33.3
458 St Catherine's Sch Twickenham, Lond SW Girls	26	11.6	33.2
459 Coloma Convent Girls' Sch, Croydon GM Comp Girls	**117**	**10.1**	**33.2**
460 St Ambrose Coll Altrincham, Cheshire Boys	110	7.6	33.2
461 Hulme Grammar Sch Oldham, Manch Boys	104	6.5	33.2
462 Ribston Hall High Sch, Gloucs GM Sel Girls	**80**	**6.6**	**33.1**
463 King Edward VI Grammar Sch, Louth, Lincs GM Sel Mix	**125**	**8.2**	**33.0**
464 St Joseph's Sch Kenilworth, W'Wicks Mix	23	7.1	33.0
465 Spalding High, Spalding, Lincs LEA Sel Girls	**144**	**6.6**	**33.0**
466 Invicta Grammar Sch, Maidstone, Kent LEA Sel Girls	**122**	**6.0**	**33.0**
467 Reading Blue Coat Sch Reading, Berks Mix	84	8.0	32.9
468 Lord Wandsworth Coll Hook, Hants Mix	76	6.6	32.9
469 Ditcham Park Sch Petersfield, Hants Mix	46	6.5	32.9
470 Trent Coll Nottingham, Derbys Mix	114	8.8	32.7
471 King's Sch Gloucester, Glos Mix	36	8.3	32.7
472 Leys Sch Cambridge, Cambs Mix	71	7.7	32.7
473 Clifton Coll Bristol, Bristol Mix	122	7.6	32.7
474 Elizabeth Coll Guernsey, CI Mix	86	7.4	32.7
475 Salesian Coll Farnborough, Hants Boys	78	9.5	32.5
476 Watford Grammar Sch for Boys, Watford GM Comp Boys	**162**	**8.1**	**32.5**
477 Wisbech Grammar Sch Wisbech, Cambs Mix	89	7.9	32.5
478 Llandovery Coll Llandovery, Wales S Mix	*41*	*7.8*	*32.1*
479 King's Sch, Peterborough GM Sel Mix	**180**	**10.2**	**32.0**
480 Kesteven and Grantham Girls Sch, Lincs LEA Sel Girls	**163**	**6.2**	**32.0**
481 Kirkham Grammar Sch Preston, Lancs Mix	84	5.3	32.0
482 Southend HS for Boys, Southend, Essex GM Sel Boys	***129***	***9.0***	***31.9***
483 Fort Pitt Grammar Sch, Chatham, Kent LEA Sel Girls	**118**	**8.6**	**31.8**
484 St Maur's Sch Weybridge, Surrey Mix	71	5.9	31.8
485 Durham Sch Durham, Durham Mix	52	8.0	31.7
486 Kimbolton Sch Huntingdon, Cambs Mix	92	*8.1*	31.7
487 Millfield Sch Street, Somerset Mix	239	6.0	31.7
488 St George's Coll Weybridge, Surrey Mix	76	5.4	31.7
489 Bullers Wood Sch, Chislehurst, Kent GM Sel Girls	**173**	**10.0**	**31.6**
490 Thorpe House Sch Norwich, Norfolk Girls	40	9.0	31.6
491 Townley Grammar Sch, Bexleyheath, Kent LEA Sel Girls	**145**	**5.2**	**31.6**
492 Liverpool Coll Liverpool, Mersey Mix	109	9.4	31.5
493 Hurstpierpoint Coll Hassocks, Sussex W Mix	89	8.1	31.5
494 King's Sch Rochester Rochester, Kent Mix	68	9.6	31.4
495 Bishop Vesey's GS, Sutton Coldfield Vol Sel Boys	**116**	**8.4**	**31.4**
496 Uppingham Sch Uppingham, Leics Mix	96	8.4	31.3
497 Forest Girls' Sch GBA London, Lond NE Girls	55	7.4	31.3
498 King Edward VII Sch Lytham, Lancs Boys	77	8.2	31.1
499 Elmhurst Ballet Sch Camberley, Surrey Mix	41	6.2	31.1
500 Queen Elizabeth's Sch, Barnet, Herts GM Sel Boys	**177**	**10.0**	**31.0**
501 Dane Court Grammar, Broadstairs, Kent GM Sel Mix	**189**	**7.3**	**30.9**
502 Sedbergh Sch Sedbergh, Cumbria Boys	57	8.1	30.8
503 Edgehill Coll GBGSA Bideford, Devon Mix	53	7.9	30.8
504 Cardiff High Sch, Cardiff LEA Comp Mix	**188**	**7.8**	**30.8**
505 St James's and The Abbey West Malvern, Herworcs Girls	35	8.7	30.6
506 King's Sch Tynemouth, Tyne Mix	108	7.9	30.6
507 Wilson's Sch, Wallington, Surrey GM Sel Boys	**121**	**7.5**	**30.6**
508 Combe Bank Sch Sevenoaks, Kent Girls	38	3.6	30.5
509 Caterham Sch Caterham, Surrey Mix	113	8.5	30.3
510 Farlington Sch Horsham, Sussex W Girls	43	7.4	30.3
511 Bristol Cathedral Sch Bristol, Bristol Mix	77	7.2	30.3
512 Batley Grammar Sch Batley, Yorks N Mix	83	9.5	30.2
513 Royal Latin Sch, Buckingham LEA Sel Mix	**164**	**6.2**	**30.2**
514 Westfield Sch Gosforth, Tyne Girls	38	6.0	30.1
515 Bexley Gramr Sch, Bexley LEA Sel Mix	**139**	**5.9**	**29.8**
516 Victoria Coll Jersey, CI Boys	83	7.9	29.6
517 St Mary's Hall Brighton, Sussex E Mix	51	6.7	29.6
518 Tunbridge Wells GS for Boys, Kent LEA Sel Boys	**142**	**5.6**	**29.6**
519 Plymouth High Sch, Plymouth, Devon LEA Sel Girls	**94**	**4.3**	**29.6**
520 King's Sch Ely, Cambs Mix	99	6.7	29.5
521 Royal Masonic Sch Rickmansworth, Herts Girls	90	6.4	29.5
522 Sir Joseph Williamson's Sch, Kent LEA Sel Boys	**144**	**5.0**	**29.5**
523 Longridge Towers Sch Berwick-u-Tweed, Northumb Mix	38	6.4	29.4
524 Mount Carmel Sch Alderley Edge, Cheshire Girls	62	8.4	29.3
525 St David's Senior Sch Ashford, Surrey Girls	37	8.3	29.3
526 Ilford Ursuline HS Ilford, Lond NE Girls	39	7.7	29.3
527 Frensham Heights Farnham, Surrey Mix	51	6.1	29.3
528 Hurtwood House Dorking, Surrey Mix	21	10.4	29.2
529 St Edmund's Coll Ware, Herts Mix	74	7.8	29.1
530 Arts Educational Sch London NW Mix	39	5.3	29.1
531 Herts and Essex High Sch, Herts GM Comp Girls	**150**	**7.0**	**29.0**
532 Kent Coll Canterbury, Kent Mix	72	9.3	28.9
533 Helsby High Sch, Helsby, Cheshire LEA Comp Mix	**216**	**11.0**	**28.7**
534 Pipers Corner Sch High Wycombe, Bucks Girls	56	8.3	28.7
535 St George's Sch, Harpenden, Herts Vol Comp Mix	**149**	**7.7**	**28.7**
536 King William's Coll Isle of Man, IOM Mix	82	9.3	28.6
537 William Hulme's Grammar Sch Manchester, Manch Mix	111	7.5	28.5
538 Christ Coll Brecon, Wales S Mix	67	7.4	28.4
539 Cardinal Vaughan Memorial Sch, London GM Comp Boys	**91**	**7.4**	**28.3**
540 Wrekin Coll Telford, Salop Mix	35	11.5	28.2
541 Parsons Mead Sch Ashtead, Surrey Girls	39	6.8	28.2
542 St Bernard's Convent Sch, Slough LEA Sel Girls	**127**	**5.0**	**28.2**
543 King Edward VI Sch, Lichfield, Staffs LEA Comp Mix	**212**	**7.2**	**28.1**
544 Thetford Grammar Sch Thetford, Norfolk Mix	43	6.4	28.1
545 High Storrs Sch, Sheffield, S Yorks LEA Comp Mix	**232**	**7.1**	**27.8**
546 Ruthin Sch Ruthin, Wales N Mix	24	11.7	27.7
547 Virgo Fidelis Sch London, Lond SE Mix	28	8.9	27.7
548 Ryde Sch Ryde, IOW Mix	67	8.2	27.6
549 Ranelagh Sch, Bracknell, Berks Vol Comp Mix	**127**	**5.8**	**27.6**
550 Chesham High Sch, Chesham, Bucks LEA Sel Mix	**170**	**8.2**	**27.6**
551 Stonar Sch Melksham, Wilts Mix	71	7.1	27.5
552 Gordonstoun Sch Elgin, Scotland Mix	67	8.9	27.5
553 Elmslie Girls Sch Blackpool, Lancs Girls	24	8.2	27.5
554 Monkton Combe Sch Bath, Somerset Mix	59	5.3	27.5
555 Westonbirt Sch Tetbury, Glos Girls	40	7.1	27.4
556 Emmanuel Col CTC, Gateshead, Tyne CTC Comp Mix	**165**	**5.4**	**27.4**
557 Baston Sch Bromley, Lond SE Girls	20	8.5	27.2
558 Holy Child Sch Birmingham, W Mids Mix	32	6.9	27.2
559 St Joseph's Coll with the Sch of GBA Ipswich, Suffolk Mix	107	7.3	27.1
560 Tapton Sch, Sheffield LEA Comp Mix	**217**	**6.9**	**27.1**
561 Lurgan College, Lurgan, Co Armagh LEA Sel Mix	**115**	**8.0**	**27.1**
562 Barnard Castle Sch Barnard Castle, Durham Mix	72	8.8	27.0
563 Wilmington Grammar Sch, Kent GM Sel Girls	**102**	**8.0**	**27.0**
564 Sutton Grammar Sch, Sutton, Surrey GM Sel Boys	**117**	**6.4**	**27.0**
565 St Bede's Sch Hailsham, Sussex E Mix	88	5.8	27.0
566 Hollygirt Sch Nottingham, Notts Girls	35	5.5	27.0
St Colmans College, Newry LEA Sel Boys	**124**	**5.5**	**27.0**
568 Carre's Grammar Sch, Lincs GM boys Sel	**84**	**5.7**	**26.9**
569 St Hildas Sch, Lancashire VOL Comp Girls	**109**	**8.2**	**26.8**
570 North Halifax Grammar Sch, Halifax,Sel GM Mix	**132**	**7.0**	**26.8**
571 Langley Grammar Sch, Berks GM Sel Mix	**119**	**5.4**	**26.7**
572 Edgbaston C of E Coll Birmingham, W Mids Girls	27	5.9	26.6
573 Greenacre Sch Banstead, Surrey Girls	37	9.4	26.6
574 Framlingham Coll Woodbridge, Suffolk Mix	76	7.3	26.5
575 Quinton House Sch Northampton, N'Hants Mix	25	5.3	26.4
576 St Edward's Sch Cheltenham, Glos Mix	68	5.1	26.4
577 Camden Sch for Girls, London LEA Comp Girls	**122**	**9.0**	**26.2**
578 Peterborough HS Peterborough, Cambs Mix	29	4.3	26.1
579 King David Sch, Manchester LEA Comp Mix	**63**	**10.0**	**26.0**
580 King David High Sch, Liverpool Vol Comp Mix	**87**	**8.8**	**26.0**
581 Harrogate Grammar Sch, N Yorkshire LEA Comp Mix	**242**	**6.4**	**26.0**
582 John Hampden GS, High Wycombe, LEA Sel Boys	**122**	**4.0**	**26.0**
London Oratory Sch, London GM Comp Mix	**180**	**4.0**	**26.0**
584 Our Lady of Sion Sch Worthing, Sussex W Mix	65	6.5	25.8
585 St Lawrence Coll Ramsgate, Kent Mix	69	9.6	25.6
586 St John's Sch Leatherhead, Surrey Mix	72	4.1	25.6
587 Stokesley Sch, N Yorks LEA Comp Mix	**207**	**9.2**	**25.5**
588 Marling Sch, Stroud, Gloucs GM Sel Boys	**119**	**6.1**	**25.5**
589 St Joseph's Coll, Stoke GM sel Mix	**51**	**5.5**	**25.5**
590 Olchfa Sch, Swansea LEA Comp Mix	**329**	**6.8**	**25.4**
591 St Annes's Convent Sch, Southampton GM Comp Girls	**189**	**5.1**	**25.4**
592 Abbot's Hill Hemel Hempstead, Herts Girls	39	7.7	25.3
593 St Laurence Sch, Wiltshire Vol Comp Mix	**162**	**7.2**	**25.3**
594 North Foreland Lodge Hook, Hants Girls	27	3.3	25.3
595 Ewell Castle Sch Ewell, Surrey Mix	44	7.1	25.2
596 Woodhouse Grove Sch Apperley Bridge, Yorks S Mix	90	8.2	25.2
597 Queen Elizabeth GS, Ashford, Kent GM Sel Mix	**117**	**6.2**	**25.1**
598 Copthall Sch, Mill Hill, London LEA Girls Comp	**174**	**8.2**	**24.7**
599 Bassingbourn Village Coll, Cambs GM Comp Mix	**72**	**8.1**	**24.7**
600 Newlands, Maidenhead, Berks LEA Comp Girls	**174**	**6.8**	**24.7**
601 Claremont Fan Court Sch Esher, Surrey Mix	58	6.6	24.7
602 Worksop Coll Worksop, Notts Mix	63	5.4	24.7
603 Bishop Luffa Sch, Chichester, W Sussex Vol Comp Mix	**209**	**5.9**	**24.6**
604 Tettenhall Coll Wolverhampton, W Mids Mix	45	2.6	24.6
605 Peterborough & St Margarets Sch for Stanmore, Girls	20	4.1	24.3
606 Towers Convent Sch Steyning, Sussex W Mix	25	2.9	24.3
607 Jewish Free Sch, London GM Comp Mix	**221**	**9.4**	**24.2**
608 Maiden Erlegh Sch, Earley, Reading LEA Comp Mix	**238**	**6.3**	**24.2**
609 Sacred Heart Of Mary Girls, Essex GM Comp Girls	**111**	**9.0**	**24.0**
610 Adam's Grammar Sch, Newport, Shropshire GM Sel Boys	**93**	**7.0**	**24.0**
611 Strabane Grammar Sch, County Tyrone LEA Sel Mix	**53**	**4.0**	**24.0**
612 Penglais Sch, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion LEA Sel Mix	**171**	**8.2**	**23.9**
613 Battle Abbey Sch Battle, Sussex E Mix	22	4.8	23.9
614 Rossall Sch Fleetwood, Lancs Mix	67	5.5	23.8
615 Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin, Carmarthen LEA Sel Mix	**94**	**6.3**	**23.7**
616 Bloxham Sch Banbury, Oxon Mix	51	4.5	23.7
617 St Andrew's Sch Bedford, Beds Mix	34	7.5	23.5
618 Bishop Heber HS, Malpas, Cheshire LEA Comp Mix	**171**	**6.7**	**23.5**
619 Dagfa House Sch Nottingham, Notts Mix	25	6.1	23.5
620 Ballard Coll New Milton, Hants Mix	28	11.3	23.4
621 St Christopher Sch Letchworth, Herts Mix	46	8.5	23.4
622 Cherwell Sch, Oxford LEA Comp Mix	**210**	**6.1**	**23.4**
623 Bishop Stortford High Sch, GM Comp Boys	**148**	**8.3**	**23.3**
624 Windsor Boys Sch, Windsor, Berks LEA Comp Boys	**211**	**6.6**	**23.3**
625 Mount St Mary's Coll Via Sheffield, Derbys Mix	56	5.0	23.2
626 Limavady Grammar Sch, Londonderry LEA Sel Mix	**122**	**2.6**	**23.2**
627 Queen Elizabeth Cambria, Carmarthen LEA Comp Mix	**124**	**7.1**	**23.1**
628 Durham Johnston , Durham LEA Comp Mix	**218**	**8.0**	**23.0**
629 Slough Grammar, Slough, Berks GM Sel Mix	**94**	**8.0**	**23.0**
630 Dover Coll Dover, Kent Mix	36	4.2	23.0
631 Lavant House Rosemead Chichester, Sussex W Girls	27	7.3	22.9
632 Mount Sch London, Lond NW Girls	57	3.2	22.9
633 Ysgol Maes Garmon, Yr Wyddgrug, Mold LEA Sel Mix	**104**	**4.9**	**22.8**
634 Thornton Coll Milton Keynes, Bucks Mix	*47*	*4.8*	*22.8*
635 Llanidloes High Sch, Llanidloes, Powys LEA Sel Mix	**95**	**6.2**	**22.6**
636 Marlwood Sch, Alveston, Bristol LEA Comp Mix	**208**	**8.8**	**22.5**
637 Leighton Park Sch, Kent Mix	56	10.9	22.4
638 Sunderland HS Sunderland, Tyne Mix	39	8.1	22.4
639 Caerleon Sch, Caerleon, Newport LEA Comp Mix	**225**	**8.2**	**22.4**
640 Clayesmore Sch Blandford, Dorset Mix	67	6.3	22.4
641 Howard of Effingham, Effingham, Surrey LEA Comp Mix	**220**	**5.6**	**22.4**
642 King Edward's Sch Godalming, Surrey Mix	*81*	*4.5*	22.4
643 Poynton County High Sch, Cheshire LEA Comp Mix	**289**	**6.1**	**22.3**
644 Malmesbury Sch, Malmesbury, Wiltshire LEA Comp Mix	**142**	**5.2**	**22.3**
645 Hipperholme Grammar Sch Halifax, Yorks W Mix	53	4.8	22.3
646 Borden Grammar Sch, Kent LEA Sel Boys	**111**	**4.3**	**22.3**
647 St Ursula's HS Bristol, Bristol Mix	29	1.6	22.3
648 Lady Manners, Derbys GM Comp Mix	**229**	**5.3**	**22.2**
649 Farringtons and Stratford House Chislehurst, Lond SE Mix	45	3.0	22.2
650 Presentation Coll Reading, Berks Mix	51	6.5	22.1
651 Cowbridge Sch, Vale of Glamorgan LEA Comp Mix	**187**	**5.5**	**22.1**
652 Ysgol Gyfun Maesyryrfa, Carmarthenshire LEA Sel Mix	**120**	**6.1**	**21.9**
653 Holy Family High Sch, Merseyside Vol Comp Mix	**155**	**5.9**	**21.8**
654 Boston Grammar Sch, Boston, Lincs Gm Sel Boys	**98**	**4.1**	**21.8**
655 St Joseph's Convent Sch Reading, Berks Girls	57	4.4	21.7
656 Brentwood Ursuline Convent HS Essex GM Sel Girls	**111**	**4.1**	**21.7**
657 Stowe Sch Buckingham, Bucks Mix	80	7.5	21.5
658 Douai Sch Reading, Berks Mix	31	5.8	21.5
659 Claires Court Sch Maidenhead, Berks Boys	76	3.9	21.5
660 Ratcliffe Coll Leicester, Leics Mix	69	3.8	21.4
661 Holmes Chapel Sch, Cheshire LEA Comp Mix	**163**	**4.5**	**21.2**
662 Fallibroome HS, Macclesfield, Cheshire GM Comp Mix	**154**	**3.4**	**21.2**
663 Wycliffe Coll Stonehouse, Glos Mix	58	5.3	21.1
664 Davenant Sch, Loughton, Essex GM Comp Mix	**157**	**5.2**	**21.1**
665 Brooke Weston CTC, Corby, Northants Comp Mix	**162**	**4.2**	**21.1**
666 Sandbach High Sch, Cheshire Comp LEA Girls	**181**	**8.0**	**21.0**
667 Eaton (City of Norwich), Norwich LEA Comp Mix	**202**	**7.0**	**21.0**
668 Wilmslow High Sch, Wilmslow, Cheshire LEA Comp Mixed	**192**	**6.0**	**21.0**
669 Pocklington Sch York, Yorks E Mix	*94*	4.7	21.0
670 Parmiter's Sch, Garston, Herts GM Comp Mixed	**182**	**4.3**	**21.0**
671 Kelly Coll Tavistock, Devon Mix	54	1.8	21.0
672 Kings Monkton Sch Cardiff, Wales S Mix	30	5.2	20.9
673 Hull Grammar Sch Kingston upon Hull, Yorks E Mix	48	4.1	20.9
674 Alsager Sch, Alsager, Cheshire LEA Comp Mixed	**228**	**5.7**	**20.8**
675 Sexey's Sch, Somerset GM Comp Mixed	**41**	**3.3**	**20.6**
676 Wispers Sch Haslemere, Surrey Girls	25	2.1	20.5
677 Crickhowell High Sch, Crickhowell, Powys LEA Sel Mixed	**97**	**7.1**	**20.4**
678 Friends Sch Saffron Walden, Essex Mix	35	3.2	20.4
679 Oxted County Sch, Oxted, Surrey LEA Comp Mixed	**302**	**4.7**	**20.2**
680 Guildford County, County, Surrey GM Comp Mixed	**153**	**4.4**	**20.2**
681 Royal Russell Sch Croydon, Lond SE Mix	74	2.9	20.2
682 John Taylor High, Burton-on-Trent LEA Comp Mix	**184**	**6.3**	**20.1**
683 Nailsea Sch, Nailsea, North Somerset LEA Comp Mixed	**194**	**5.3**	**20.1**
684 Sale Grammar Sch, Sale LEA Sel Mixed	**188**	**4.3**	**20.1**
685 Fortismere Sch, Muswell Hill, London LEA Comp Mix	**213**	**6.6**	**20.0**
686 Gryphon, Sherborne Vol Comp Mixed	**190**	**6.0**	**20.0**
687 Dixons College, Bradford CTC Comp Mix	**147**	**2.0**	**20.0**
688 Beaumont Sch, St Albans, Herts LEA Comp Mix	**164**	**5.0**	**19.9**
689 Ursuline Coll Westgate-on-Sea, Kent Mix	50	3.7	19.9
690 Castle School, Thornsby, Glos LEA Comp Mix	**188**	**6.4**	**19.8**
691 Oadby Beauchamp College, Leicester LEA Comp Mix	**467**	**5.2**	**19.8**
692 Ormskirk Gram Sch, Lancashire LEA Comp Mix	**192**	**4.6**	**19.8**
693 Campion Sch, Hornchurch, Essex Vol Comp Boys	**123**	**3.6**	**19.7**
694 Ealing Coll Upper Sch London, Lond NW Mix	28	1.3	19.7
695 Rosebery Sch, Epsom, Surrey GM Comp Girls	**211**	**4.8**	**19.6**
696 Trinity High Sch, Woodford Green, Essex Vol Comp Mix	**228**	**6.4**	**19.4**
697 Culford Sch Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk Mix	79	3.8	19.4
Sidcot Sch Winscombe, Somerset Mix	67	3.8	19.4
699 Silcoates Sch Wakefield, Yorks W Mix	63	2.2	19.4
700 Licensed Victuallers' Sch Ascot, Berks Mix	103	5.8	19.3
701 Parrs Wood High Sch, Manchester LEA Comp Mix	**234**	**4.6**	**19.3**
702 Ilkley Grammar School, Ilkley, W Yorks LEA Sel Mix	**267**	**4.1**	**19.3**
703 St John's Sch Billericay, Essex Mix	28	3.0	19.3
704 Finham Park Sch, Coventry LEA Comp Mix	**217**	**6.0**	**19.2**
705 St Nicholas RC High, Hartford, Cheshire Vol Comp Mix	**192**	**5.7**	**19.2**
706 Reed's Sch Cobham, Surrey Mix	35	3.9	19.1
707 Pangbourne Coll Reading, Berks Mix	51	3.7	19.1
708 Eirias High Sch, Conwy GM Sel Mix	**190**	**7.0**	**19.0**
709 St John Fisher RC High Sch, Harrogate, Vol Sel Mix	**139**	**6.0**	**19.0**
710 Stretford Grammar Sch, Manchester LEA Comp Mix	**112**	**5.0**	**19.0**
711 Rednock Sch, Dursley GM Comp Mix	**197**	**4.0**	**19.0**
712 Ayton Sch GBA Great Ayton, Yorks N Mix	37	3.3	19.0
713 Bedgebury Sch Cranbrook, Kent Mix	47	2.9	18.9
714 Bishop Of Llandaff High Sch, Cardiff Vol Comp Mix	**180**	**5.8**	**18.9**
715 Goffs Sch, Cheshunt, Herts GM Comp Mix	**183**	**2.0**	**18.9**
716 La Sainte Union Convent Sch, London Comp GM Girls	**149**	**5.4**	**18.8**
717 Grenville Coll Bideford, Devon Mix	54	6.8	18.7
718 Ellesmere Coll Ellesmere, Salop Mix	59	2.2	18.7
719 Yateley School, Yateley, Hamps LEA Comp Mix	**228**	**5.8**	**18.5**
720 Forest Sch, Berks Comp LEA Boys	**196**	**3.4**	**18.4**
721 Thomas Mills High Sch, Suffolk LEA Comp Mix	**134**	**5.5**	**18.3**
722 Duke of York's Royal Military Sch Dover, Kent Mix	89	3.2	18.3
723 Brantwood Ind Sch for Girls Sheffield, Yorks S Girls	20	2.7	18.3
724 Caereinion High, Welshpool, Powys LEA Sel Mix	**80**	**6.9**	**18.2**
725 Notre Dame Sch, Sheffield GM Comp Mix	**102**	**6.2**	**18.2**
726 Westlands High Sch, Cheshire LEA Comp Mix	**119**	**5.2**	**18.2**
727 Princethorpe Coll Rugby, W'Wicks Mix	75	4.0	18.1
728 Kingswood Sch Southport, Mersey Mix	37	3.7	18.1
729 Colston's Collegiate Sch Bristol, Bristol Mix	44	2.1	18.1
730 St Philomena's High Sch, Surrey GM Comp Girls	**139**	**8.3**	**18.0**
731 Netherhall Sch, Cambridge LEA Comp Mix	**223**	**6.0**	**18.0**
732 Hinchingbrooke Sch, Cambs LEA Comp Mix	**277**	**5.2**	**18.0**
733 Huntington Sch, York LEA Comp Mix	**289**	**4.9**	**18.0**
734 Bethany Sch Cranbrook, Kent Mix	61	4.1	18.0
735 Bishop Stopford Sch, Northants Vol Comp Mix	**192**	**4.0**	**18.0**
736 Fulneck Sch Pudsey, Yorks W Mix	60	3.9	18.0
737 Shebbear Coll Beaworthy, Devon Mix	41	3.0	17.9
738 Embley Park Sch Romsey, Hants Mix	49	7.0	17.9
739 Royal Wolverhampton Sch Wolverhampton, W Mids Mix	45	3.5	17.8
740 Wentworth Coll Bournemouth, Dorset Girls	45	2.9	17.8
741 Bedstone Coll Bucknell, Salop Mix	35	2.6	17.8
742 St John's Coll GBA Southsea, Hants Mix	83	4.2	17.7

Columns show number of GCSE candidates; percentage of GCSE subjects passed at starred-A grade; percentage passed at A and starred-A grade. State schools shown in bold; independent schools in normal print. Key: LEA = local education authority school; GM = grant-maintained state school; Vol = Voluntary-aided state school; CTC = City Technology College; Sel = selective; Comp = comprehensive.

هكذا من الأصل

Gifts for fellows secure future of all-female college

Bestselling author and Hong Kong benefactor help to preserve St Hilda's status, reports **David Charter**

THE uncertain future of the last all-women Oxford college looked more secure yesterday after two donations to help to preserve its unique status.

St Hilda's was given £100,000 by Dame Catherine Cookson, the author, who was said to be thrilled at the college's recent decision not to accept university-funded male academics.

The college also disclosed yesterday that £700,000 had been pledged by Pauline Chan, a Hong Kong benefactor, to fund existing female fellowships in economics and physics.

St Hilda's, which narrowly rejected the appointment of male academics in a vote in April, remains short of fellows in chemistry and engineering.

A fully endowed permanent fellowship costs about £1 million, but Dame Catherine's donation could be used for a Beale Fellowship, a five-year appointment named after the college's founder.

Dr Chan's gift will enable economics and physics fellows to be funded for the next ten years. The benefactor, who is governing director of Haking Wong Enterprises in Hong Kong, has a long-standing association with St Hilda's College, where she set up the two fellowships 15 years ago.

Cookson: has recently made gifts of £700,000

Senior college members had argued for men to be admitted for the first time in its 104-year history because of the college's difficulty in funding female dons in key subjects. They refused to rule out a further vote if the shortage of fellows worsened.

Dame Catherine's gift has been made "with no strings attached". The 91-year-old bestselling author was contacted by the college in 1982 but decided to become a benefactor after April's pro-female vote.

"My gift to St Hilda's, which is for use at the college's discretion, is to indicate my support for women in education," Dame Catherine said yesterday. "I understand how hard women have had to strive for the right to be educated and how much it takes to achieve, even nowadays, particularly when one comes from a disadvantaged background.

"I have written a number of stories on this theme and wish to encourage environments in which women can flourish as students and scholars."

Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, principal of St Hilda's, said: "Dame Catherine's gift could benefit the college in a number of ways. We shall be considering an appropriate use at our first governing body meeting of next term. We cannot, of course, guarantee that St Hilda's will be able to maintain its current position as an all-female college in perpetuity."

The donation is the third announced in two days from the author, who is bedridden and unable to read or write because of an hereditary blood disorder, although she still dictates her stories on to tape. Sunderland University was given £100,000 towards the development of its St Peter's campus and the Catherine Cookson Reading Room, and the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne will receive £200,000 for research into gastro-intestinal disorders.

In recent months Dame Catherine has also donated £250,000 to save the Hatton Gallery in Newcastle and £50,000 to help former servicemen who became ill after being involved in nuclear tests.

ASHLEY COOMBES

Members of St Hilda's, Oxford University's only all-women college. In April it voted to reject male academics

Discount customer cheated Tesco of £8,000

By Simon de Bruxelles

TESCO was criticised by a magistrate yesterday after a customer swindled the supermarket group of £8,000 with a loyalty card.

Dean Maddison, 24, from Exeter, was the second signatory on his girlfriend's Club Card Plus account and was issued with his own card. But the only information he had been asked to give was his name. The couple should have paid £15 a month into the account, which could be spent in the store and would entitle them to discounts.

Maddison found he could use the card at Tesco filling stations, even though he had no money in his account. The 270 filling stations were not connected to the main computer where credit information was stored.

Yesterday the magistrate, who sentenced Maddison to 240 hours' community service, described it as extraordinary that Tesco procedures could have been so slack. Maddison bought cigarettes and petrol worth more than £8,000 from garages across the South of England over a period of three months.

John Parkin, chairman of the bench at Exeter Magistrates' Court, said: "It seems extrordinary that Tesco could have started operating this card. It is a very serious offence, even if the store concerned was slack with their procedures. You carried on deliberately for no less than 164 occasions."

Maddison was ordered to repay the £8,317 that he admitted stealing at the rate of £30 a month, which will take him 23 years. Peter Seigne, representing Maddison, criticised Tesco for making only minimal checks on applicants. He said: "The amount of detail they asked was his title, Christian and surname. That was as far as Tesco made inquiries into the second cardholder's financial circumstances."

Tesco has since changed its procedures and all its filling stations are linked to computers in its 568 stores. The chain said that Club Card Plus application forms now required far more information.

Don wins battle over Cambridge promotions secrecy

By David Charter

A CAMBRIDGE lecturer passed over for a professorship has won a legal battle to force the university to change its "unfair and secretive" selection system.

Gillian Evans, a medieval history don, said she was delighted at the High Court ruling, which gives the university a year to make the necessary changes.

Dr Evans has campaigned for three years to make senior academics more accountable by giving the reasons for their rejection of candidates for the coveted post of professor. Promotion means a salary increase for lecturers from £29,000 to £41,000, as well as enhanced career prospects.

Dr Evans, whose work is widely published, said: "These people have the power to give people a very prestigious title and a great big salary rise without having to be accountable to how they hand out these gifts.

"The judge has given the university the chance and the time to get its house in order. But I realise it is unlikely to do my own case any good because promoting me or not has become a political issue." In the judgment, which was published this week, Mr Justice Sedley said: "For unsuccessful candidates, it is of great importance to know why they have failed … Occasionally it would become apparent that the decision-makers have misapprehended or overlooked something relevant."

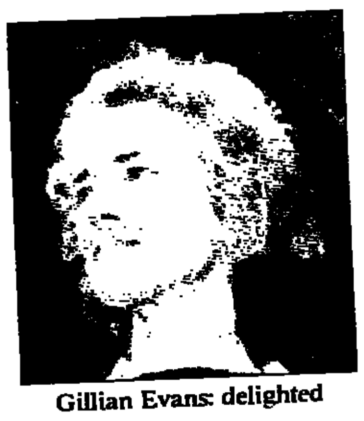
He added: "The giving of reasons demonstrates that proper care has been taken over something of critical importance to the standing and career of each candidate."

The judge granted Dr Evans leave for judicial review but stayed the proceedings to allow the university to amend its ways. He added: "I do not want this to be regarded as a sword of Damocles held over the head of the university. It has every right to take its own course and to defend that course if the stay is then lifted. Equally it may wish, by continuing upon its changed course or by further modifying it, to put itself beyond such criticisms."

A spokeswoman for Cambridge said the university was already reviewing its procedures, which could lead to new posts being created. A review at Oxford last year led to the creation of more than 100 new titular professorships, which conveyed the title without extra salary.

"In some respects this is a victory for Dr Evans, but we were already going through the procedure of reviewing the appointments system," the Cambridge spokeswoman said. "We have been actively considering the system of professorships for two years and a final judgment will come out in June 1998, after a vote by all members of the university."

She added: "It is hoped that it will lead to an extension in the number of professorships, but at the same time it depends on funding."



Gillian Evans: delighted

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Catholic Church is ready to be born again

Tide of decline has been turned back after 25 years, writes **Ruth Gledhill**

ERIC GAILLARD

Senior clergy who gathered to see the Pope last week will be encouraged by news that the number of priests has risen

THE Roman Catholic Church could be on the threshold of a worldwide renaissance, according to two sets of statistics published this week.

Countering the prophets who have predicted doomsday for a declining church with few members and fewer priests, the latest Vatican survey of ordinations shows a brisk rise in the number of men becoming priests worldwide. And after a week when thousands more youngsters than expected turned up in Paris for a Papal Mass on World Youth Day, a survey in Southampton has uncovered a surprisingly large number of churchgoing Catholic teenagers.

The rise in the number of ordinations is nowhere near sufficient yet to offset the huge losses caused by priests leaving to marry, live a secular life or by those who die. Europe lost 60,000 in 25 years. But compared with the 1970s, when there were thousands more losses than ordinations, the situation has reversed and is offering signs of hope for the Church.

In 1995, the latest year for which figures are available, there were 289 more ordinations than losses. According to the Vatican newspaper *l'Osservatore Romano*, the overall number of priests in the world has gradually decreased from 451,000 in 1970 to 405,000 in 1995, but the biggest drop took place in the 1970s and there has been almost no fall in the 1990s.

The numbers of priests are increasing in Africa, South America and Asia but are still falling in Europe. Defections from the priesthood have more than halved, from 3,414 in 1970 to 1,121 in 1995.

In countries where ordinations are increasing, the number of Catholics is rising at an even faster rate. In Italy there are now 980 Roman Catholics to every priest but in Brazil the ratio is 8,000 to one, with nowhere near enough priests to meet the demand for daily Mass.

In Britain there were 89 ordinations in 1989 and 76 in 1994 although the number of diocesan priests fell from 4,719 to 4,409 over the same period. While few are expecting an increase in ordinations here, there are signs that the exodus from the priesthood is slowing and numbers of new priests are remaining steady. The survey among parishes in Southampton showed that a third of Catholic teenagers attended Mass each week, countering the common view that youngsters were not interested in churchgoing.

One fifth said they went to Mass once a month. But, while the survey found evidence that churchgoing had a strong influence on their morals and beliefs, nearly all the 500 teenagers questioned disagreed with the Catholic Church's stance on birth control.

According to the *Catholic Herald*, it is now incorrect to talk of a crisis in the Church. "Whenever two or three middle-aged Catholics are gathered, the subject guaranteed to unite them in misery is that of the lamentable state of the youth generation," the paper comments this week. "Then what happens? In the stifling heat of Paris in August, a million young people of effulgent faith and Christian commitment gather to celebrate the Eucharist offered by a frail and elderly Pope . . . the future is in the hands of today's young people — and judging by those in Paris, it should be good."

Credo

On a country walk, God is the best companion

John Haldane

FOR 30 years, the British nature artist Hamish Fulton has made art about the experience of walking in the landscape. His activity is usually solitary and often carried out in remote places, occasionally wildernesses. He also produces photographs and texts recording his journeys or expressing thoughts along the way. One such text reads:

Rock, fall, echo, dust

As with the walking journeys themselves, this spare utterance has something oriental and quasi-religious about it, like the disciplined rituals of Zen artists.

In recent years there has been a marked increase in the practice of walking: walking for sport, for health and stress relief, and cross-country and hill walking for leisure. Part of the explanation of this interest is a concern to decelerate the pace of life, to disengage from motorised, high technology existence. Another is the belief that the quiet experience of nature offers confirmation that the world is imbued with value.

Reflective activity set apart from daily business, ordered by ritual and marked by reverence for nature: this is indeed characteristic of a religious outlook. But it is not confined to the East nor to ideas influenced by Zen, Tao or New Age pantheism.

Gerard Manley Hopkins was born in 1844 to a High Church Anglican family. In October 1866, at the age of 22, he was received into the Roman Catholic Church by John Henry Newman. Two years later, Hopkins joined the Jesuits.

Like Fulton, he kept diaries and notebooks recording his experiences of landscape. Hopkins's artistic quest was for an authentic voice in which to express his recognition of the specialness of nature. In *Spring*, he writes: *Nothing is so beautiful as Spring — / When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush.*

Fulton's simply ordered life also suggests images of medieval mendicants, such as the followers of St Francis, who rejected urban materialism for holy poverty and an intimate relationship with nature. Or again there is a reminder of medieval pilgrims such as trekked across Europe to Santiago de Compostela or to St Andrews, to revere the missionary apostles, themselves "holy walkers".

But there is something very different about the contemporary desire for walking in the landscape. Even though it often expresses a spiritual sensibility, it generally lacks focus. The passing countryside seems as if we and it were made for one another, yet that thought is idle without a belief in creation. Similarly, the idea that nature is imbued with meaning calls out for explanation, in the absence of which it invites dismissal as indulgent sentimentalism.

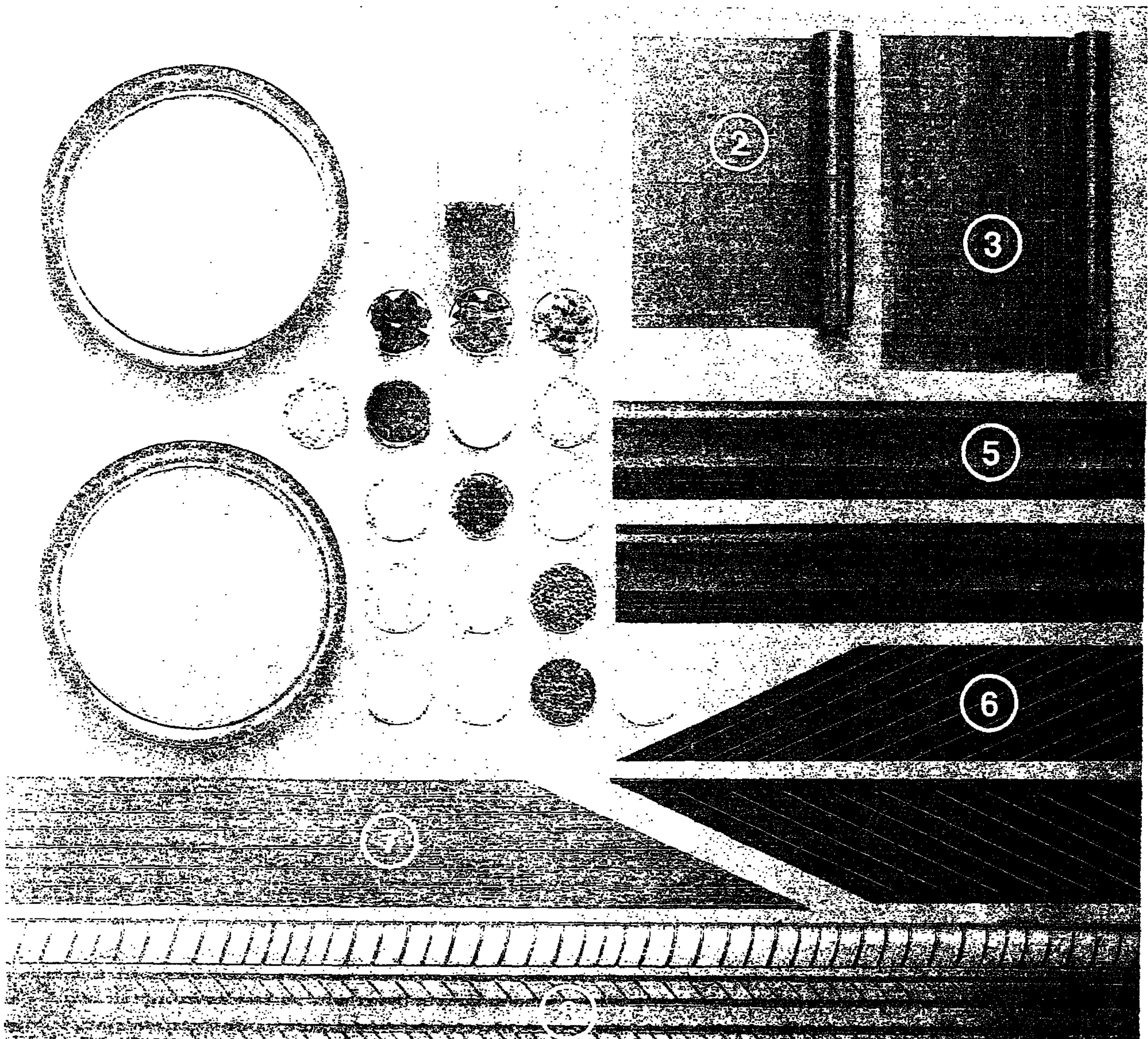
For St Francis and Hopkins, however, to walk in nature is to move within the sphere of God's creative activity. St Paul writes of how God's invisible nature may be clearly perceived in the created world (Romans i), but like the power of locomotion that of perception may grow weak.

St Thomas Aquinas holds that all men seek God, and the current interest in walking may be part of an unrecognised pilgrimage. It is worth considering again the focus of Hopkins's clear-sighted vision of nature, this time from *God's Grandeur*:

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

☐ John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy in the University of St Andrews

At Your Service
Weekend, page 13



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Ask a German for his favourite recipe and you won't be surprised if it's inedible. Nevertheless, we bring you this highlight from the Continental tyre engineers' recipe book. At least you know this dish is *meant* to be rubbery.

1. First make your basic rubber compound using natural and synthetic rubber, sulphur, resin, aromatic oil, carbon black, stearic acid, cobalt stearate, wax and a unique blend of vulcanisation and anti-oxidant chemicals. These are probably not the sort of ingredients you have at home - unless you're a Continental tyre engineer. Mix, then test (but don't taste) for consistency.
2. Make an airtight inner liner by rolling butyl rubber into a wide thin layer and trim. This will ensure your tyre rises nicely and doesn't go flat.
3. In a calendering machine, make body plies to form the tyre's carcass. The carcass gives the tyre its strength and also cushions you, even on roads lumpier and bumpier than German custard.
4. With brass-coated steel cords, form a circle to make the tyre 'beads'. These will make sure your tyre sits securely on the wheel rims.
5. Take two strips of rubber and form the outer sidewalls. These protect tyres from bangs and scrapes, and the chemicals added earlier help reduce the harmful effects of ozone and the sun. (Our engineers hate to see their pride and joy looking anything less than perfect.)
6. Now cover brass-coated steel with rubber to make belt plies. Place under the tread, to provide longer life and a better shape. Not what you normally associate with German cooking.
7. Make the cap plies by embedding nylon in rubber to form a bandage over the belt plies and under the tread. This improves high speed handling and stability.
8. To make the tread, add chemicals and stir into the basic rubber compound. Heat and pass through an extruder.

You'll now need your tyre building machines. Combine the bead, inner liner, carcass, sidewalls, belt plies and tread. Spray the outside of the tyre with lubricant and the inside with silicon.

Place in a vulcanising mould and cook for 10 minutes at 150°C and 12 bar of pressure. Remove and leave to cool. You've now made a very tasty Continental tyre.

Of course, if you can't be bothered, with all the preparation, you can always get a take-away from your local tyre dealer.

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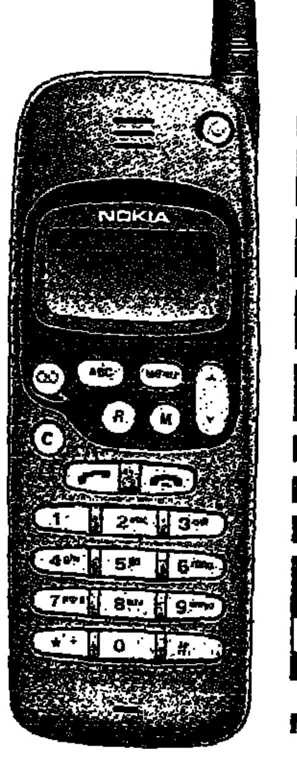

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Laurie Bridges, 21, with her hands over her face

Two jailed as Cyprus tackles tourist crime

From Michael Theodoulou in Nicosia

TWO British women who admitted burglary in Cyprus were each jailed for four months yesterday. Judges on the island gave warning of tougher sentences to tackled crimes committed by tourists, most of whom are from Britain.

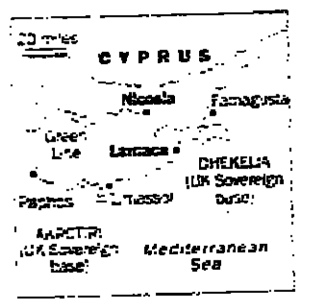
Georgina Fields, 25, and Laurie Bridges, 21, both from Birmingham, sobbed as they were escorted by police from Larnaca court to begin their sentences in Nicosia Central Prisons. They had pleaded guilty to burgling a house near Larnaca and stealing £650, jewellery and children's clothing. Spiros Kittos, 23, Bridges's Cypriot boyfriend, was also jailed for four months for receiving the stolen goods. Fields has dual British-Cypriot nationality.

They had already compensated the owner, but Judge Michalis Christodoulou said such a serious offence needed a sentence that would serve as a deterrent. "The fact that you are women makes no difference," he told them.

This week Mr Christodoulou has fined five Britons for filing false theft claims and a Stockport couple for making a bogus rape complaint in an attempt to make money from their holiday insurance. He also fined a 19-year-old British soldier stationed on the island for buying a mobile phone he knew was stolen.

The Cyprus police force has dealt with about 400 false insurance claims this year, most of them involving Britons. Most are easily caught: items reported stolen or lost are often found by police in the tourists' hotel rooms.

After sentencing two Britons on such charges on Wednesday, Judge Christodoulou said that the spate of fraudulent theft claims was damaging Cyprus's image as a relatively crime-free holiday destination, and wasting police and court time.



The problem the Cypriot police have is in sorting the grain from the chaff. So many tourists have cried wolf about being robbed that genuine victims are also suspected. This week Panicos Hadjiloizou, the island's police chief, ordered an investigation into allegations by British tourists that detectives had bullied them into signing false confessions that they had invented theft and rape claims.

On August 19, after spending four days in police custody, Andrew Esqulant and Lester Brown, both 19, from Bickley, south London, were each fined £280 on charges of attempting to make a false insurance claim for property they said was stolen.

When they returned to England they said police had threatened them with long prison sentences if they did not confess. But a day after they were taken into custody, Mr Esqulant's credit card was reported to have been used in a local shop.

More serious are claims by a Stockport mother of four that the police forced her into signing a confession that she had filed a false rape charge to make money from her holiday insurance. Susan Warburton, 30, and her boyfriend, Paul Shearsmith, 26, were each fined £400 on Monday after pleading guilty to a charge of public mischief and conspiracy. They could have been jailed for a year. Police are investigating their allegations.

Georgina Fields and her boyfriend, Spiros Kittos

Magistrate releases graffiti vandals

A MAGISTRATE yesterday took the rare step of bringing back to court and freeing two young Dutch tourists whom he had jailed on Tuesday for daubing graffiti on a subway wall.

Roger Davies, the senior stipendiary magistrate at Horseferry Road Court, told the first-time offenders: "I have asked for this case to be listed before me this morning because I have thought about the matter." He added: "I hope the point is now made. They have been in custody now for five days and have surely learnt their lesson."

He revoked the 28-day sentences on Marcel Loeffen, 18, a business student, and Indra Mutsaers, 21, who is unemployed. Instead he fined them £100 each, with the option of a nominal day's imprisonment, effectively freeing them.

But Mr Davies warned them: "People who come to London must learn that we don't want people daubing our walls or monuments or other buildings in this way. I've discussed this with my colleagues and they have approved of my action."

The men had admitted criminally damaging a wall at Hyde Park Corner on Bank Holiday Monday. They were ordered to pay £100 compensation each.

Poisoned prisoners sue water company

FOURTEEN Dartmoor prisoners have been granted legal aid to sue a water company after they contracted salmonella poisoning (Simon de Bruxelles writes).

The men fell ill in August 1995. An investigation by environmental health officers concluded that a leaking sewage pipe was the most likely source of the outbreak.

The men's solicitor, Derek Reed, of Woollcombe Beer Watts, a Newton Abbot firm that specialises in personal injury claims, said yesterday: "It is a complex case and we are still contemplating the next step. We did not go into this fishing for compensation from South West Water. Initially it looked as though lack of hygiene inside the jail was to blame. It was the report by West Devon Borough Council that pointed us in that direction."

South West Water has written to the solicitors saying that it is satisfied that it was not to blame for the outbreak. A spokesman for the company said: "We have received a claim for compensation. It was passed on to our loss adjusters and the upshot is we are denying liability."

A spokesman for the Prison Service said that it was unable to comment while legal proceedings were being considered.

MG-loving pensioner crashed wheelchair

A PENSIONER who drove her electric wheelchair the way she use to drive her sports car died when the chair hit a stone, an inquest was told yesterday.

Beatrice Porritt, 85, a retired company director, had given up her MG eight years ago, after a stroke, and bought the wheelchair to get around the grounds of Bilton Hall Nursing Home.

At the inquest at Harrogate, North Yorkshire, the Coroner, Jeremy Cave, was told that the collision had caused the chair to overturn, and Miss Porritt suffered fatal head injuries. He recorded a verdict of accidental death. Mr Cave said that staff at the home said "she used to hurtle around in her MG".

A field in her former home village of Menston, that she had fought to preserve, where her ashes are to be scattered, is to be named "Miss Porritt's Field".

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	£20,000	to under	£40,000	7.00%	5.60%
	£10,000	to under	£20,000	6.80%	5.44%
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Islanders' dilemma over lost paradise

FROM TOM RHODES
IN MONTSERRAT

EDGE OF DISASTER

As the volcano forces more into a shrinking safe zone, many on Montserrat believe there are few signs of a coherent policy by Britain

THE malevolent volcano of Montserrat stealthily claimed more victims yesterday as plans were drawn up to shrink the Caribbean island's safe *zone further and move the* British Governor's offices to makeshift huts in the north.

Under the latest expert advice of scientists, local authorities in the tiny British colony are intending to move the safety line from the Nantes River northwards to Runaway Ghaut, a valley near woodlands, affecting the lives of up to 800 residents, including David Brandt, the recently elected Chief Minister.

The decision will create more overcrowding on a 39-square-mile island which has lost two thirds of its infrastructure, its port and Plymouth, the capital, in the two years since the Soufrière Hills volcano awoke from four centuries of slumber.

Under the proposal, which has yet to be announced to the 5,000 islanders who still remain on Montserrat, a coastal strip of luxury homes will be left in territory deemed unsafe from the spewing mountain. The move for Frank Savage, the Governer, will be the third for the Governor's staff since the volcano erupted in 1995.

Based on new hazard assessment *by the* Montserrat Volcano Observatory, which itself will be moving monitoring operations further north in *the coming* week, *the plan* has upset many, including David Hodd, an architect who has lived in the island for 27 years. "I *am not moving. I don't* think it is unsafe," Mr Hodd said. "And where would I move to, anyway?"

Like so many others on Montserrat, he remembers the time when this Caribbean pearl was a paradise untainted by the high crime rates and ubiquitous package tours that have plagued many of its neighbours.

It was a playground for rock stars such as Sting, the Rolling Stones and Mark Knopfler, all of whom cut albums at the famous Air Studios, the recording centre built by Sir George Martin, the Beatles manager.

The studios and 98 per cent of the island's housing stock were severely damaged by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, but Montserrat neverthelsss remained a luxury destination for those in the know. "It was lively every night," said Margaret Wilson, a native of Sunderland who moved to the island ten years ago to run The Nest, a drinking haunt frequented by the rich and famous. "You never miss a Friday night out and you got to know all the stars."

Her Montserrat husband, Danny Sweeney, even taught Sting how to windsurf and still considers the star a friend. But that was then.

Since the vents in the Soufrière Hills opened, the stalwart inhabitants of Montserrat have watched a decline in island life. The church in St Peter's where The Police made the video accompanying *Every Breath You Take* now houses dozens of homeless islanders, with as many as 50 using a single lavatory.

The cannons and bright red telephone box in Plymouth, the most strident symbols of colonial life, are covered in ash, the empty capital itself *swathed in volcanic debris.* "If we can't rent a house in the far north of the island, we will have to move," Ms Wilson *said.* "and *I am not prepared* to go back to England to live in some council house."

Britain has watched and waited, seemingly incapable of finding any agreed plan for an island first sighted by Christopher Columbus in 1493 and settled by Irish Roman Catholics about 140 years later. Six thousand people have left in the past two years for other parts of the Caribbean.

The crisis reached its worst point on June 25 when 19 people were killed as the volcano's pyroclastic flows of molten rock crashed down the sides of Chance's Peak, engulfing whole villages in their wake.

Although the Labour Government has agreed a £41 million package of assistance, many islanders believe it is not enough. The local Government, *brought to its knees by* the volcano, forcing the resignation of Bertrand Osborne, the former Chief Minister, has demanded more money from Britain, arguing that the mother country has failed in its responsibilities.

Whitehall organised a partial evacuation after George Foulkes, International Development Minister, apparently misunderstanding scientists' views, spoke of a "cataclysmic eruption".

The evacuation has failed to attract many in Montserrat and ministerial mistakes have been compounded by Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, who snubbed an invitation to visit *Montserrat last week, and* accused local authorities of "playing silly political games" and of asking for "golden elephants".

Although she has since had to hand the reins of policy to a task force headed by Robin Cook, *the Foreign Secretary,* many on Montserrat believe there are still few signs of a firm policy.

*Mr Foulkes, who is sched*uled to visit Montserrat on Monday, will face a barrage of questions.

*As Mr Brandt put it yester*day: "For two years we have been offered promises and when those promises become a reality, then I will believe them."

> ‘I am not prepared to go back to England and have to live in some council house’

COLIN BRALEY / REUTERS

Ash-covered dolls in a Plymouth shop. Merchandise was abandoned when the Montserrat capital was evacuated

British insurer offers cover for homes in north

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

EDGE OF DISASTER

ONE of the biggest property insurers on Montserrat said *yesterday it would continue to* insure homes in the "safe" area of the Caribbean island despite fears that further erup*tions could cause millions of* pounds of damage.

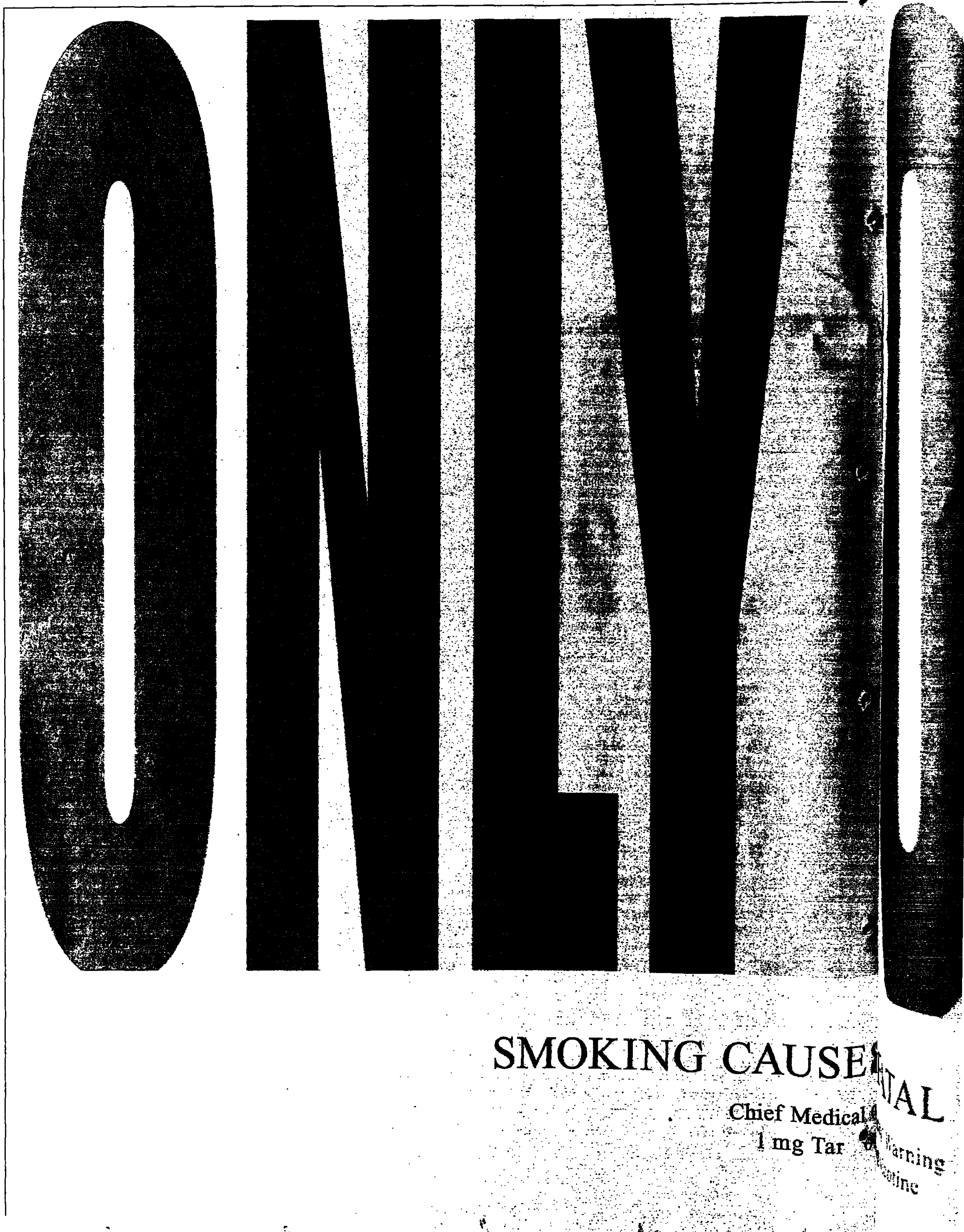
Royal & Sun Alliance, the large corporate UK insurance *group, withdrew cover earlier* this month for homes in the south of the island, covered in volcanic ash. But it said it *would continue to offer cover* for policy-holders in the as yet unaffected north *of the* island when policies came up for renewal. At Lloyd's *of London, which* has reinsured a large part of the insurance risk, a spokesman said: "We do not yet know what our liabilities will be. If the whole island blows up, we would be able to cope with the losses. It is not as catastrophic as a hurricane hitting a densely populated part of the United States."

Part of *the problem* for Royal & Sun is that insurance cover is administered by an agency in Montserrat, from *whence all records have had to* be flown to Antigua where the insurer has a subsidiary, Sun Alliance Eastern Caribbean. A team of experts is now trying to quantify losses.

Mike Jones, a spokesman for the parent company, said cover for the island was constantly under review. "We are taking the advice of vulcanologists and geologists and will modify our cover as we see appropriate." He added: "If the volcano disintegrates and *the whole island is destroyed,* there will be a significant impact on our business in that part of the Caribbean. However, *we are an international* company with many overseas divisions." Royal & Sun has operated in Montserrat for 30 *years and continued to offer* cover after the volcano unexpectedly became *active in 1995.* Islanders have also traditionally bought cover *from two* Caribbean-based firms, Nemwil and United Insurance, both of which sent letters to homeowners last week warning them that cover would be withdrawn. The three firms, between them, account for nearly all of the insured property on the island. They argue that they *cannot renew contracts in the* south of the island beccause they will lose money since the volcano is still active.

The other institution to feel the effects of the volcano's destructive power is the Montserrat Building Society. It has suffered a double whammy: homeowners have been defaulting on mortgage payments for homes they believe they may never return to, while savers have been withdrawing money to pay for passage off the island.

> ‘If the whole island is destroyed, there will be a significant impact on our business in that part of the Caribbean’



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Volcano havoc could last years, scientists say

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

EDGE OF DISASTER

THE eruption of the Soufrière volcano on Montserrat could continue for years, scientists who are monitoring the volcano believe.

Previous eruptions of the same type on the Caribbean island have lasted about five years, says Dr Willie Aspinall, a British expert who has recently returned from working at the Volcano Observatory on the island.

"So far the volume of material extruded from the volcano — about 100 million cubic metres — is less than half and probably only about a quarter of what we can infer from previous eruptions," he said. "That means that another three to four years of eruption would not be a surprise."

The team of scientists cannot rule out an even longer timescale, as some lava dome eruptions of the same type develop into activity lasting for up to 50 years. But in spite of remarks made by George Foulkes, the International Development Minister, a catastrophic explosion is the least likely of scenarios painted by scientists.

They described this as a "remote possibility" whose probability of occurrence, though never absolutely precluded, is extremely low. "The best estimates for such an event is one in 10,000, although some scientists see it as negligible," the team concluded.

The most likely outcome, they believe, is a continuation of the present eruption at about the same intensity. That is little consolation for the islanders as the eruption has claimed the southern half of the island, where most of the facilities are.

Yesterday the observatory, manned by a rotating group of eight to ten scientists drawn from Britain, the West Indies and the United States, was due to move its centre of operations from Old Towne to a safer site further north. "There is no point in risking losing the instruments and recorders, so they are moving them to a safe distance," Dr Aspinall said.

The eruption has claimed several key instruments, tiltmeters placed close to the summit of Soufrière which were wiped out in the latest eruption. These were being used to measure small changes in the angle of the ground which are local and cannot be monitored effectively from any distance.

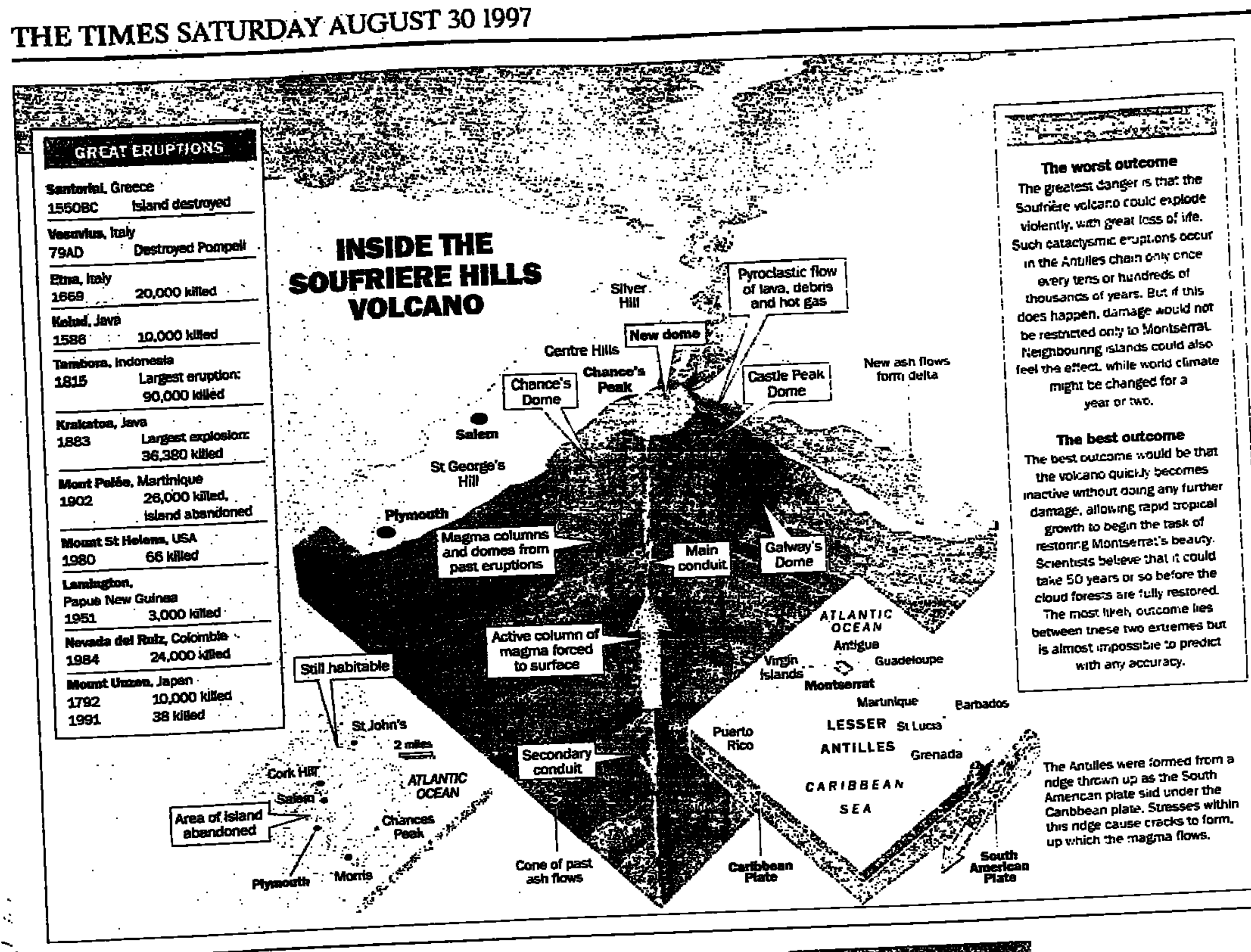
The instruments could be replaced, but only at considerable risk to the person doing it, Dr Aspinall says. Fortunately, observations taken before the tiltmeters were destroyed showed correlations with data from a network of seismic sensors arranged around the volcano. The seismic sensors are still working, so data from them can be used to infer what the tilmeters could have been showing.

The best instrument, however, remains the human eye. The vulcanologists spend several hours a day standing around at sites to the east and west of Soufrière, waiting for breaks in the cloud so that they can see what the volcano is doing. If the opportunity arises, they also make observations from a helicopter. "It's pretty sapping," says Dr Aspinall. "You don't get much sleep."

The team also uses laser beams and the global positioning network of satellites to detect deformation of the volcano, which gives an indication of movement within it. These signals are useful for monitoring changes over a month or so. They are detecting minor changes that are difficult to interpret.

If dramatic changes were seen they could presage a serious explosion such as the one which destroyed Mount St Helens in northwest United States in 1980. But no such changes have been detected.

When the volcano does stop erupting, nature will quickly start to recolonise the damaged land. When the eruptions stop, a process called succession will gradually rebuild the cloud forests of the Soufrière Hills. But Dr Deborah Brosnan, an American biologist who has studied the effect of the volcano on Montserrat, says that it will be a long process.



The Antilles were formed from a ridge thrown up as the South American plate slid under the Caribbean plate. Stresses within this ridge cause cracks to form, up which the magma flows.

GREAT ERUPTIONS

Santorini, Greece	
1550BC	Island destroyed
Vesuvius, Italy	
79AD	Destroyed Pompeii
Etna, Italy	
1669	20,000 killed
Kelud, Java	
1586	10,000 killed
Tambora, Indonesia	
1815	Largest eruption: 90,000 killed
Krakatoa, Java	
1883	Largest explosion: 36,380 killed
Mont Pelée, Martinique	
1902	26,000 killed, island abandoned
Mount St Helens, USA	
1980	66 killed
Lamington, Papua New Guinea	
1951	3,000 killed
Nevada del Ruiz, Colombia	
1984	24,000 killed
Mount Unzen, Japan	
1792	10,000 killed
1991	38 killed

The worst outcome

The greatest danger is that the Soufrière volcano could explode violently, with great loss of life. Such cataclysmic eruptions occur in the Antilles chain only once every tens or hundreds of thousands of years. But if this does happen, damage would not be restricted only to Montserrat. Neighbouring islands could also feel the effect, while world climate might be changed for a year or two.

The best outcome

The best outcome would be that the volcano quickly becomes inactive without doing any further damage, allowing rapid tropical growth to begin the task of restoring Montserrat's beauty. Scientists believe that it could take 50 years or so before the cloud forests are fully restored. The most likely outcome lies between these two extremes but is almost impossible to predict with any accuracy.

The war memorial in Plymouth, surrounded by ash

Tourism chiefs forecast boom

By Harvey Elliott
Travel Correspondent

EDGE OF DISASTER

OFFICIALS on Montserrat plan to attract large numbers of "volcano tourists" to the devastated island once the immediate threat of further eruptions is over.

Montserrat was one of the least known Caribbean islands until the volcano made international news. Now local tourism chiefs believe that the island can benefit from the publicity by encouraging holidaymakers — especially Americans — to watch the explosions and clouds of steam and ash from a safe distance. One possibility is to run cruise ships close by, enabling passengers to watch the lava flow through binoculars, or to fly sight-seeing tours above the volcano.

Volcano watching, although not attracting a huge following, does already have hundreds of devotees. Derek Moore, operations director of the British tour operator Explore Worldwide, said there was a small but regular demand for organised visits to seven main volcano areas around the world.

"They are only small groups and the most popular is a visit to three volcanoes in Sicily," he said. "We send 12 groups each year to see Stromboli and others on the island and generally get around 16 people in each."

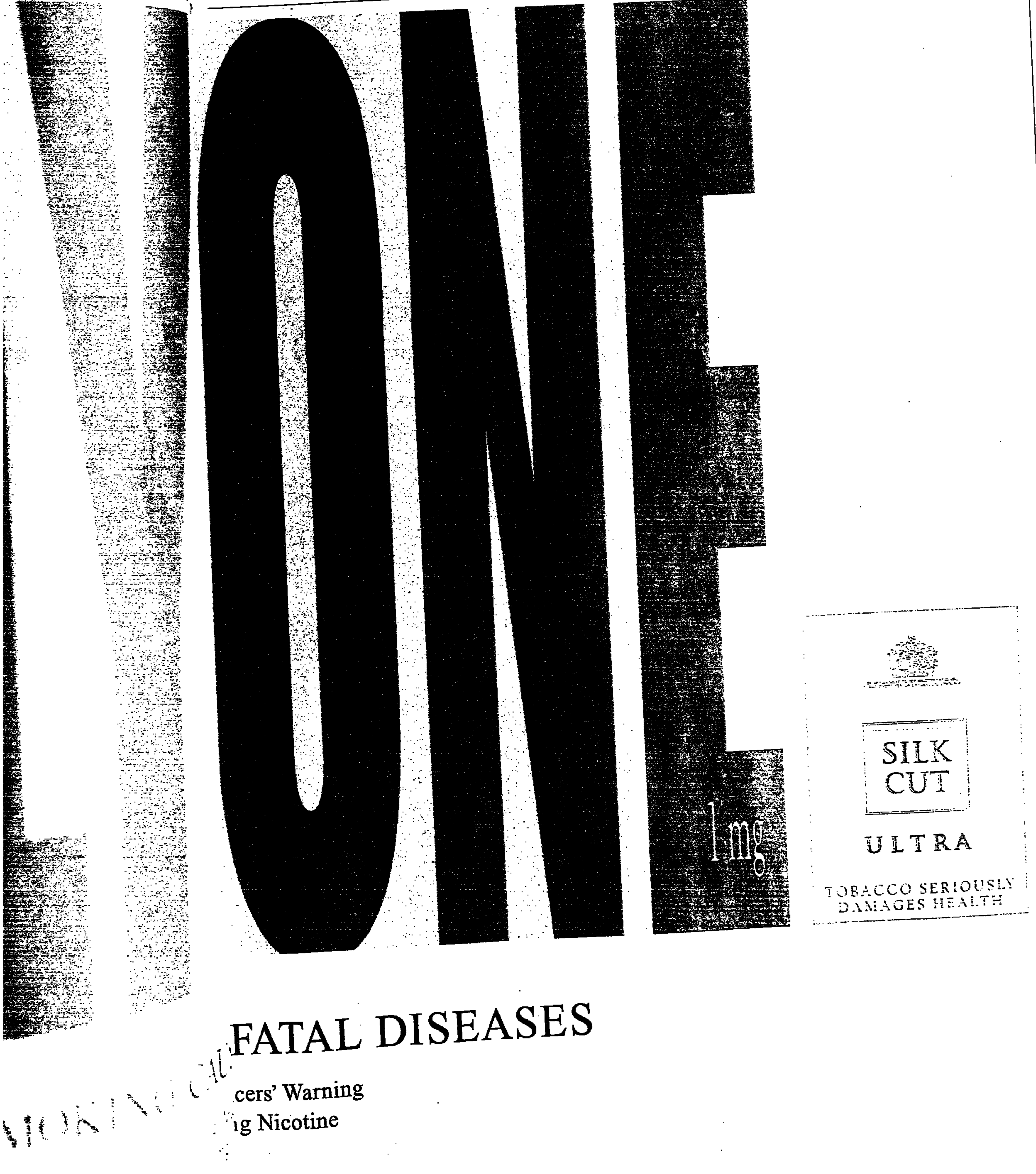
Other destinations include Ecuador, Nicaragua, Iceland, the Azores and Crete.

"People are interested in the historical effects volcanoes can have on a country. Even though they may be extinct many people find themselves fascinated to see at close hand how the Earth's geology is made up and the impact volanoes have on the history of a country.

"The problem with Montserrat, however, is that it is extremely dangerous and we cannot have people risking their lives."

Debra Taylor, the marketing manager of Arctic Experience, last year organised two tours to see the effects of the volcano under the glacier in Iceland. "We took about 80 people who were keen to photograph the glacier and the iceflows. We were able to fly through the plume and see the geothermal activity. But although many people like to include a visit to the geysers, it is not a mainstream activity."

The Montserrat volcano is likely to continue to be active for at least five years.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Mayor tipped for president

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S
NEW YORK

RUDOLPH GIULIANI, New York's Republican Mayor, could one day become the first Italian-American President of the United States.

That is not just my opinion. It is the firm view also of Mario Cuomo, the former Governor of New York state, and the last Italian-American politician of whom it was also said that he would one day become the first Italian-American President.

According to Mr Cuomo, a Democrat, if Mr Giuliani wins the city's mayoral race in November — and he is as likely to do so on current form as there are certain to be glitches next week on board the Russian space station Mir — "he can run for anything he wants ... he can run for President. Governor, the Senate, whatever he wants".

Unlike Mr Cuomo, the Mayor has never been regarded as an "ethnic" politician. His appeal extends far beyond the Catholic-Italian constituency: Jews back him, as do the city's Hispanics and "Anglos". Black voters are wary of him, but not as wary as they might have been had he not handled a recent case of alleged police brutality against a Haitian man with exemplary statesmanship, reminding the police brusquely that America is a "civilised society".

Mr Giuliani should not now be seen merely as a "Republican". Ed Koch, the former Democrat Mayor, has said that he will vote for him in November, as have a number of Democrat city councillors. As Mr Cuomo said recently, the Mayor is now an "upper politician, bigger than Democrats, bigger than Republicans".

The Mayor could be the answer to the Republican Party's despairing prayers in this dark era of President Clinton's second term. Mr Giuliani is the only active Republican figure today with enough oomph to take the battle to the Democrats. He is honest, too, and a workaholic of epic proportions. A genial, hands-on bruiser who speaks in a clear, demotic tongue, he remains untainted even after a recent attempt by *Vanity Fair* magazine to derail his re-election campaign.

The magazine ran an ill-researched article stating that he had committed adultery with an aide. It was a gratuitous attack which tarnished not Mr Giuliani but the magazine itself. The Mayor's reputation, in fact, grew sizeably as he stood defiantly by his wife and the aide. As one New Yorker put it: "He was a darn sight more convincing than Clinton has ever been."

Mr Giuliani has always denied that he has any presidential ambitions. This makes sense; New Yorkers prefer their mayors to be earthy, not "uppity", and he must not be seen to covet the White House too much too soon.

Giuliani: the Mayor appeals across city's ethnic divides

Queens says no to queen

CATHERINE of Braganza, the Queen consort of Charles II, is facing accusations of racism in New York, nearly 300 years after her death in Lisbon.

In a nutshell, this is the story, so typical of the overheated approach to history that is prevalent in radical black quarters in the United States. A group called the Friends of Catherine wishes to erect her statue in Queens, the New York borough which derives its name from the Queen in question.

They have acquired a big, bronze statue, too, and a handsome one it is.

Yet black "community groups", led by the Rev Al Sharpton, New York's best known rabble rouser, have denounced the statue as "a racist symbol of slavery". Why? Because 17th-century Portugal was involved in the trade of slaves between Africa and the New World.

Mr Sharpton has vowed to block the installation of the statue that is causing the trouble. In a rant last week before a group of protesters, he said: "To salute a slave mistress is tantamount to spitting in the face of everyone in Queens and everyone in New York."

Curiously, the reverend protester did not explain why the spittle stopped abruptly at the city's boundaries, and did not also besmirch the rest of America.

Bad spell for Yankees

ORTHOGRAPHY is the sort of word one does not want to utter in Yankee Stadium.

Baseball fans are aghast here after learning that eight of the eleven new plaques installed in the baseball team's "hall of fame" are marred by spelling mistakes.

Joe DiMaggio's graceful stroke was "one of baseballs' [sic] greatest pleasures". The legendary Babe Ruth, too, is not spared: "The Babe singlehandedly lifted baseball to new heights with his unlimited talent and unbrideled [sic] love for the game." Others to suffer are Reggie Jackson, Phil Rizzuto, Casey Stengel and Yogi Berra. The *New York Post*, which ran the story on its front page, could not conceal its civic anguish: "Is this Yankee pride?"

As letters of indignation poured in to the Yankees' offices by the sackload, the club's managers promised to fix the plaques "before the week is out". The promise was not made in writing.

Duchess of Pork's public fast

NEXT week the Duchess of York, in her guise as spokesman for Weight Watchers, will present a "new, ultra-simple diet". She will do so, dizzyingly, on the 64th floor of a Manhattan skyscraper, before a scrum of intrigued hacks.

According to Rubenstein Associates, her agents, she will "banter with chefs (in full chef's attire) bearing trays of her favourite, but formerly forbidden, foods as she unveils a revolutionary diet from Weight Watchers that allows every conceivable food indulgence".

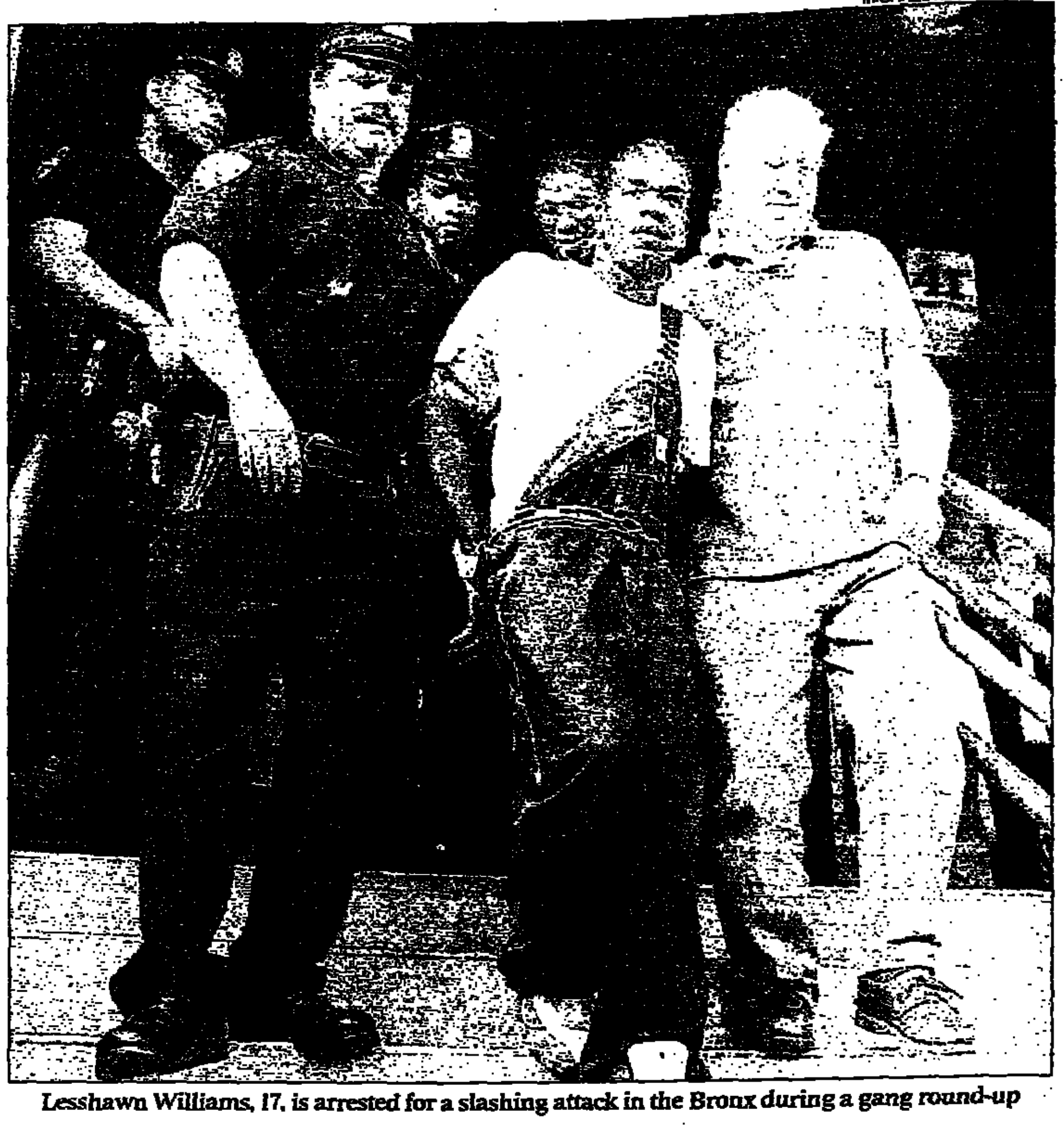
There will also be served the preview of her first television commercial for the company she endorses. Sources say that viewers can expect the following self-deprecating gags, dished out by the Duchess: "Dieting is harder than having a thinner mother. It's harder than being called the 'Duchess of Pork'. It's harder than paying off a million-dollar debt."

Dieting is also "harder than seeing yourself in a three-way mirror, harder than keeping a stiff upper lip. It's the hardest thing in the world, staying on a diet."

☐ *IT HAS been reported that John Gotti Jr, 33, son of the imprisoned Mafia boss John Gotti Sr, has taken over the city's Gambino clan. The Mafia is no longer the force it was, of course, and its decline cannot be better depicted than by the new boss's clothes. Whereas his father wore only the best silk suits (handmade in Little Italy), Junior likes nothing better than to wear red nylon tracksuits and blue baseball caps. And he can't speak Italian.*

☐ *NEW YORK is holding its breath in anticipation of a "novel" by Oliver Stone, 50, due out here on October 1.* A Child's Night Dream *was written when the film-maker was only 20. It contains lines like: "The alienation started the day they stole me from the womb. In Paris, I remember. The long swim. It was dark ... And from the liquid cave I poke my head and see. What Adam and Eve first knew in Paradise." And the style? Acne baroque.*

MICHAEL ALEXANDER / AP



Lesshawn Williams, 17, is arrested for a slashing attack in the Bronx during a gang round-up

Police struggle to stem brutal tide of 'Bloods'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A POLICE blitz through New York, designed to foil the establishment in the city of the notorious "Bloods" street gang from Los Angeles, has led to the arrest of 167 men aged between 14 and 24.

The crackdown, which involved flooding parts of the city with hundreds of uniformed and plain-clothes officers, was codenamed "Operation Red Bandana", after the distinctive headgear favoured by "Bloods" members.

The "Bloods" gang, which is at war in Los Angeles with the equally notorious "Crips" gang, had been eyeing New York since the beginning of the year as a place with fresh criminal pastures. But Howard Safir, the city's Police Commissioner, yesterday made clear that he was "determined to prevent New York from becoming an outpost for cold-blooded thugs".

The "Bloods" are, indeed, a cold-blooded outfit. The gang's raison d'etre, as gruesome as it is uncomplicated, is to inflict violence on their "enemies" — up to, and including, death. In their penchant for violence, however, they are no different from a number of other gangs, several of which exist in New York. These include the "Homicide Brims" of Harlem and the "9 Trey Gangsters Shotgun Crew" of Brooklyn.

The "Bloods", however, are regarded by the police with particular distaste. Their initiation rites are by far the most cruel, and involve fresh recruits slashing random victims across the face. In fact, it was just such an "epidemic" of face slashings, detected in the city's predominantly black areas — the Bronx, Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights in Brooklyn, and Far Rockaway in Queen's — that alerted the New York police to the presence of the "Bloods" in the city.

Inspector Jose Cordero, chief co-ordinator of the New York anti-gangs unit, said: "This street gang attracted our attention because of the slashing incidents."

Last week six teenagers, aged between 13 and 16, were charged with slashing a homeless man's face in a gang initiation in St Nicholas Park in Harlem. The man's nose had been severed in the "rite". It is believed that the slashing was performed by a 14-year-old, while the others were present as "witnesses" to authenticate the ritual.

City authorities feared that with the reopening of the city's schools next week, young male children would be subjected to a muscular recruitment drive by the "Bloods" gang, eager to establish a fiefdom in New York. Inspector Cordero said that the timing of Operation Red Bandana was intended to offset that effort.

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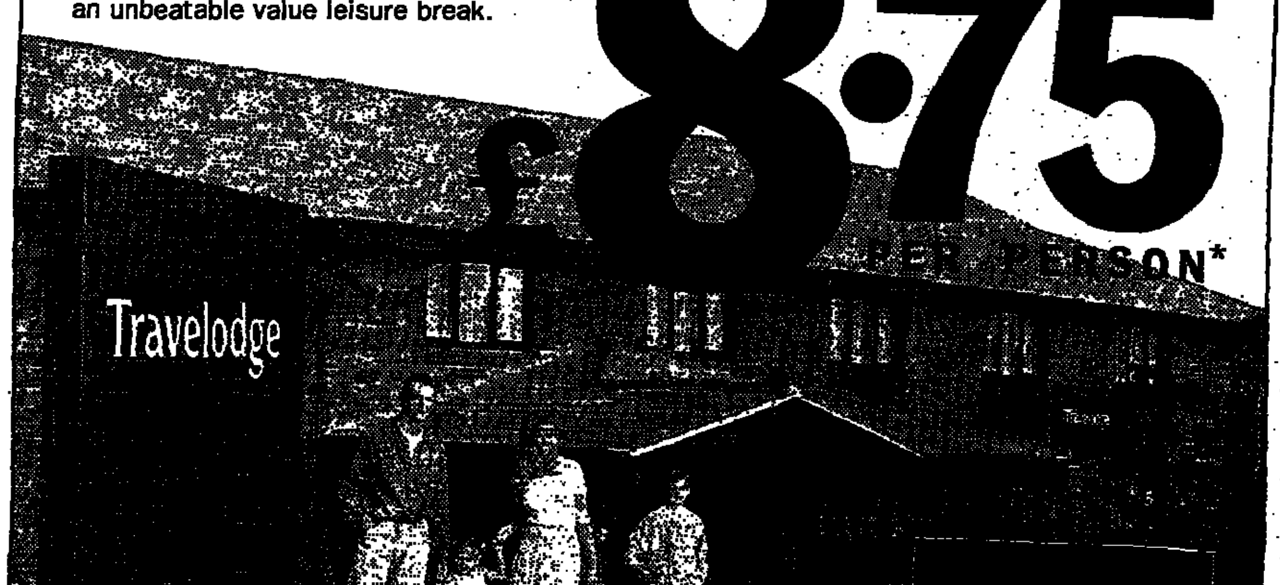

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Cook call for EU 'troika' to visit Timor

From David Watts in Jakarta

BRITAIN is proposing a new move in the decades-old East Timor dispute. In an attempt to bring Indonesia out of isolation over its illegal occupation of the tiny Far Eastern territory, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, *proposed* yesterday that a European *Union "troika" should carry* out a fact-finding mission.

The group, comprising senior representatives of the EU presidency, would be the first senior diplomats to travel there since Indonesian troops *fought to seize control in 1975.* Mr Cook's announcement was accompanied by a wider initiative to foster human rights in Indonesia in general as part of Britain's "moral" foreign policy in the Third World. The *Foreign Secretary held* "very frank" talks with his Indonesian counterpart on Jakarta's human rights record and offered a six-point aid package to improve matters.

The EU troika's mission will *be to try to find a way out of* the deadlock that has bedevilled negotiations between Indonesia and its former colonial power, Portugal, for years.

Indonesia has refused to yield the territory despite years of *international* pressure. Its takeover came with British and American connivance at a time when Communism was felt to be dominating East Asia. The *Indonesians* invaded only months after the fall of Saigon, believing that East Timor itself would become Communist.

Jakarta has steadfastly refused a plebiscite among the 800,000 *inhabitants* and says that Portugal has no right to negotiate East Timor's future *because it irresponsibly* abandoned the territory after 500 *years of colonial exploitation* at the time of the Portuguese revolution.

Ali Alatas, the Indonesan Foreign Minister, welcomed Mr Cook's initiative last night, saying that Indonesia had been *trying for* years to get senior diplomats to travel there to see the reality for themselves. Britain and other countries have so far sent only junior diplomats to East Timor, feeling that sending a more senior person would amount to recognition of Indonesia's *right to the territory.*

Mr Cook said the six-point British aid package included offering material support to the National Human Rights Commission which, although set up by the state, has criticised *what it considers to* be abuses.

Similar help would be given to the Legal Aid Foundation, which advises poor defendants, and would offer 20 scholarships in Britain for the study of *good* government. British police would also give lectures to Indonesian law enforcement officers on ways of dealing with public order problems.

Today, Britain will announce new measures to crack down on paedophiles and the child sex trade in the Philippines. Mr Cook, who arrived in Manila last night, is to unveil *the measures* after visiting a child refuge.

They are expected to focus on co-operation between the British and Philippines governments and police *forces*, with support for child aid organisations.

The vogue for white tights among female executives drove *The Washington Post*'s fashion editor to deplore women's lack of elegance, and ignite a capital controversy

'White Hose Scandal' rocks Washington

Women executives have reacted with a vengeance to the charge that they lack elegance, writes **Bronwen Maddox**

NEWT GINGRICH and his revolutionaries charging through Capitol Hill hardly *stirred up the sort of storm* that is now raging over "What Washington Women Wear".

Robin Givhan, fashion editor of *The Washington Post*, says nothing braced her for "probably the most aggressive letter and phone campaign" she's ever received, and a controversy which has spread throughout the capital's magazines and talking shops.

"*Washington* women have reacted with a vengeance," she says, to her gentle suggestions that while their professional success might be everything they dreamed of, their command of elegance is lagging *well behind.*

It all began last summer when she mused over the new stylishness of New York working women who were giving *up their much-parodied habit* of wearing running shoes on the way to work, slipping into a pair of Italian loafers instead. Could Washington not follow suit, she asked?

"No" was the resounding answer to the *Post*'s letters columns. One reader sent a *picture of a pair of* women's feet bound in the old Chinese practice, asking: "Is this what you want women to do to themselves?"

Undeterred, *Ms Givhan* chose this summer to attack *"The White Hose Scandal"*, the fondness of Washington women for dead-white tights, even in winter, when their legs show every splash from the *muddy slush in the streets.* "Horror has many faces," she wrote. "This one has legs. Everywhere in Washington, there are women wearing sheer, ghostly white pantyhose, like a fungus on the capital landscape."

"Women who pair white *pantyhose with black business* suits, navy coat dresses, charcoal skirts ... are an illustration from the dowdy handbook," she said. She urged them to abide by the classic rule of hosiery: the *same colour* or darker *than* one's hemline.

Readers accused her of a "sneering approach" and of "pointing her parasol of *shame*" at *them. One* declared: "Seldom have I seen on the pages of the *Post* a piece more heavily laced with an air *of naked superiority.*"

Ms Givhan, it seems, has committed an *unforgiveable* sin in an America gripped by relativism: she has dared to pronounce that one style is better than another. But she *has* also *touched* a *nerve* because of the strong conservative streak in Washington, where hemlines hover below the knee, where suits and shirts button up to the neck in a formidable breastplate, and *where many regard red as the* only safe alternative to black and navy.

"A lot of women who come here have the idea that they're going to build their careers *here, that their time in Wash*ington is when they're really going to focus on their careers," she says. "They are very wary of making any kind of mistake, something that makes them stand out other *than their skill in the job.*"

When it comes to the cladding on their legs, it seems, many simply think black is too sexy, too French. In London, a packet of 80-denier black tights grabbed on the way to *the Tube escalators is simply* the best defence against a rainy winter morning, and flattering to almost any leg into the bargain. In Washington, the same armour is re*garded, merely by virtue of* its colour, as if it were the filmiest pair of Christian *Dior* stockings ever draped across a bedspread.

Given the strength of these convictions, Ms Givhan may *be fighting a losing battle.* She says despairingly that recently she has even seen men wearing jogging shoes under dark suits on the way to work.

"That's ridiculous — men's shoes aren't that uncomfortable," *she says. Her dismal* fear for the nation's capital is that "pretty soon, we'll *all* be shuffling off to work in our bedroom slippers".

Americans lose faith in federal politics

By Bronwen Maddox

THREE-QUARTERS of Americans mistrust their Gov*ernment, despite the best eco*nomic conditions for a generation and a soaring stock market, according to new opinion polls that have startled politicians.

Most Americans remain *pessimistic about the direction* of the country and 57 per cent believe it is headed in the wrong direction, a *Washington Post*-ABC News poll says.

The results are just one measure of public disillusion*ment with national politics.* That is not new — the principle of curbing Washington's power runs through the Constitution — but the surge in public hostility to federal government is helping state gov*ernors* in their battle to grab power back from the centre.

Politicians cannot escape the dismal message in the survey that very little in the way of good news will reliably lighten the public mood: not peace abroad, shrinking budget deficits or even economic *growth*. Figures this week showed that the boom continues: *the economy grew by 3.6* per cent in the second quarter.

But the poll also shows the striking success of President Clinton. His job approval *rating has slipped to* 58 per cent from 64 per cent last month, but the poll was still the twentieth since July 1995 to show his rating over 50 per *cent. That makes him as popu*lar as Ronald Reagan at the height of his presidency, an era now seen as the highwater mark of public benevolence *towards the president.*

Support for Mr Clinton is so robust that Republican control of Congress could be in jeopardy, a separate poll for *USA Today/CNN/Gallup says.* If congressional elections were held today, 51 per cent of *registered* voters would vote for Democrats and just 41 per cent for *Republicans, it finds.*

One key to the overall gloom lies in people's worries about job security. Two decades of corporate downsizing have taken their toll.

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£100-£9,999	Annually	6.00	4.80
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£5,000-£9,999	Annually	4.85	3.88
£100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84**	4.67
£25,000-£99,999	Monthly	5.51**	4.41
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.08**	4.06
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	4.74**	3.80

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£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.65	4.52
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£5,000-£9,999	Annually	4.85	3.88
£25,000 or more	Monthly	5.51**	4.41
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.08**	4.06
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	4.74**	3.80

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مكتب الاعلام

Australia puts back the clock for 2000

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

JOHN HOWARD, the Australian Prime Minister, has announced that the country will celebrate the millennium a year after the rest of the world.

His declaration to Parliament has shocked this hedonistic society, which saw the turn of the century as an opportunity to embark on the biggest and booziest of celebrations.

However, Mr Howard is probably right, basing his view on simple mathematical logic. The decision follows questions from Barry Jones, the President of the Labor Party. Was it not a fact that a child did not celebrate its first birthday until 12 months after it was born, he asked. "This millennium would only be 999 years long if the start of the third millennium and the 21st century was celebrated in 2000," he said.

Historian wins case against Tokyo censors

Schoolchildren may be told about wartime atrocities

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPANESE schoolchildren will learn about a particularly horrific war crime after the supreme court yesterday ruled that the Government acted illegally in censoring textbook references to Unit 731, the Imperial Army's germ warfare unit.

The ruling was a personal triumph for Saburo Ienaga, the distinguished historian who has waged a 32-year legal battle against official censorship whitewashing Japanese wartime atrocities.

Professor Ienaga, 83, first filed his epic lawsuit in 1965, after the Education Ministry ordered him to delete or revise passages in a textbook he wrote on the grounds they showed Japan in a negative light.

The offending passages included an account of the infamous Unit 731, which conducted medical experiments on live prisoners in northeastern China during the war. Thousands of PoWs, mainly Chinese and Korean, died lingering deaths after being injected with bubonic plague, cholera and typhoid, or infected with syphilis. In the death camp near Harbin, prisoners were strapped to a table while Japanese doctors cut into them to study how the bacilli affected internal organs. In other experiments doctors drained prisoners' blood and replaced it with that of horses to test if such transfusions might be of use to wounded Japanese soldiers.

Although ample survivors' testimony — and confessions by Japanese members of Unit 731 plagued by their conscience — were available, the Government claimed in 1983 that there was "no credible academic research" to back up Professor Ienaga's account and ordered its deletion.

The supreme court yesterday said the Government's action was unlawful and awarded token compensation of 400,000 yen (£2,100). The ruling means the Education Ministry is powerless to prevent schoolchildren being taught about one of the darkest chapters in the nation's recent history.

Media commentators had not expected such a clearcut victory for the professor. In two earlier cases, the court had sided with the Government, but other legal challenges by Professor Ienaga have obliged Japan to own up to wartime atrocities.

Thanks to the professor's tenacity, references to the 1937 Nanking Massacre, in which an estimated 250,000 Chinese civilians were raped and massacred, have found their way into textbooks.

And for the first time, textbooks used in classes this year mention the "military comfort women", the Korean and Chinese women who were forced to provide sex in Imperial Army brothels before and during the war.

In another victory for Professor Ienaga, the Government was forced in 1982 to acknowledge that the word "advance" used in textbooks was a euphemism for Japan's invasion of Asia, and accepted it amounted to "aggression". The affair unleashed protests in China and Korea, and the Tokyo Government promised to "lend an ear" to overseas criticism and reassess the contents of textbooks.

"The Government's policy was to force writers of textbooks to suppress unfavourable episodes of Japanese history," Professor Ienaga said last night, "but I could not accept the principle of rewriting history, and would have fought on until I die if necessary".

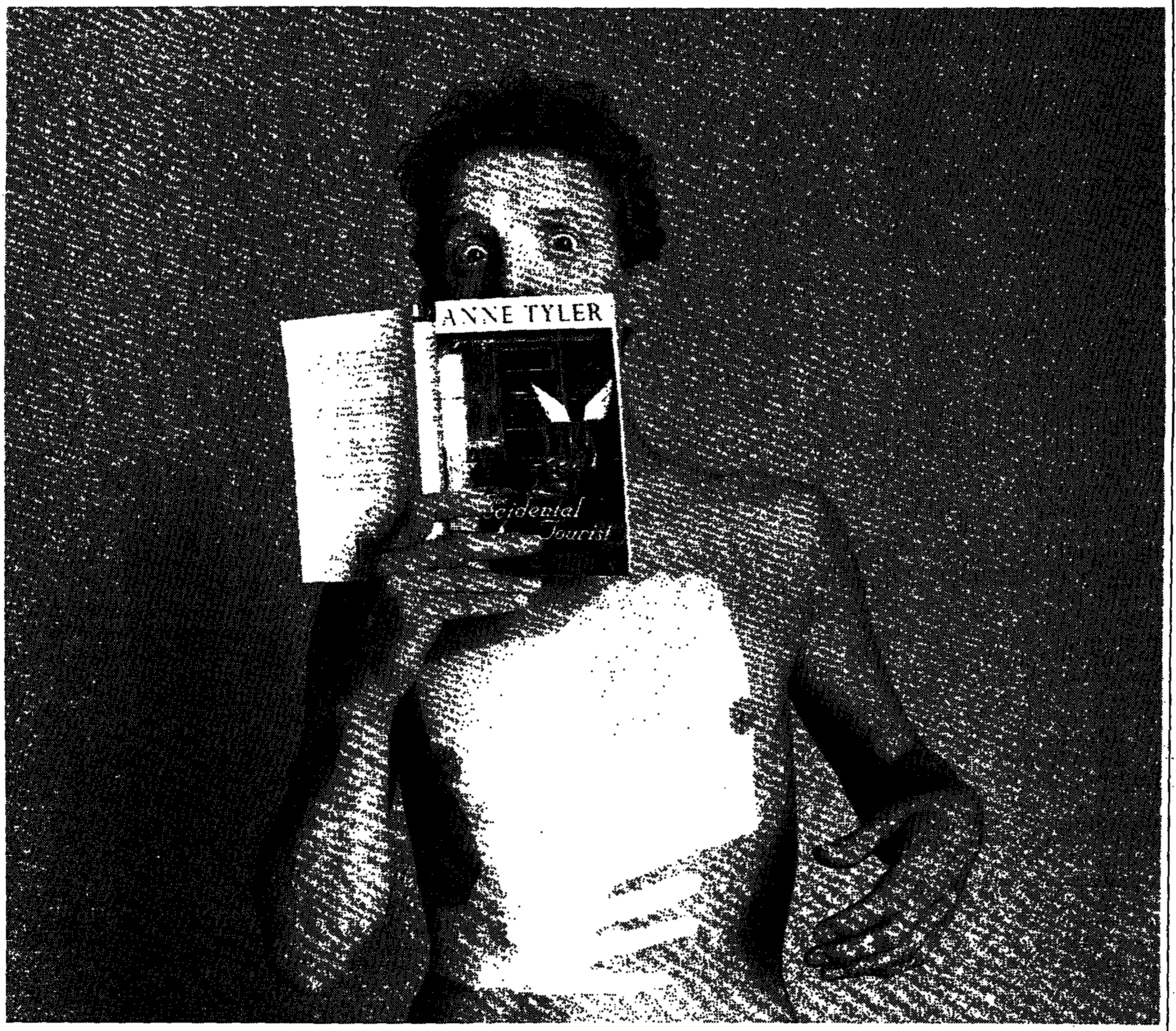
Takashi Kosugi, the Education Minister, said: "We will take the ruling seriously and continue to make sure contents of textbooks are appropriate."

The court ruling angered conservatives campaigning against textbooks mentioning Japanese atrocities. A group of scholars and business leaders called the Committee to Produce New Textbooks demanded that the Government step in to prevent "masochistic" portrayals of history that slander the nation and cast Japan as a villain.

Leading article, page 21

SUSUMU TAKAHASHI / REUTERS

Professor Ienaga yesterday after the court ruled in his favour



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WORLD IN BRIEF

Bomb blast rocks Plavsic stronghold

Banja Luka: A bomb exploded at the railway station in Banja Luka, headquarters of Biljana Plavsic, the Western-backed Bosnian Serb President, killing one person and seriously injuring another, police said.

Nato at the same time authorised its Stabilisation Force (Sfor) in Bosnia to use force to silence those parts of the media which incite hardliners to use violence, Javier Solana, the Nato chief, said. The decision came a day after Bosnian Serbs in northern Bosnia attacked Nato troops and UN police in response to a call for violence by radio and television. "Sfor will not hesitate to take the necessary measures, including the use of force, against . . . programmes inciting attacks on Sfor or other organisations," Señor Solana said.

In Brcko, the United Nations began counting the cost of the mob violence. Thirty of its patrol vehicles were overturned and between 65 and 70 demolished or vandalised, leaving the bill for vehicles alone near to £1 million. Some engines were removed.

As the UN and Sfor licked their wounds, Radovan Karadzic strengthened his grip on the alienated population in eastern Bosnia. In Doboj, the most westerly town where Dr Karadzic and his Pale government still hold sway, a bomb demolished the offices of *Alternativa*, the opposition newspaper, and another was found at the headquarters of the Socialist Party.

Journalists at *Alternativa* were too afraid to give details over their bugged telephones, but control of the former railway junction clearly rests with Dr Karadzic's police.

Albright on peace mission

Washington: Madeleine Albright, right, will make her first trip to the Middle East next month to demonstrate America's commitment to peace in the region (Bronwen Maddox writes). The US Secretary of State's visit is expected to begin in Israel on September 9, and include Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia. She will reiterate her wish for the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks to be resumed on an accelerated timetable, and will also meet Yassir Arafat.

98 die in Algeria massacre

Paris: Islamic rebels murdered 98 civilians in three villages south of Algiers on Thursday night, bringing the death toll for this week alone to more than 300 people (Ben Macintyre writes). The latest massacre took place at Sidi Moussa and two neighbouring hamlets in the province of Blida, about 30 miles from the capital, Algerian government officials said. Most of the dead were women and children. Another 120 villagers were wounded in the attack, according to officials in Algiers who confirmed the largest single act of slaughter in Algeria for more than a year. The killings came a day after a bomb near a mosque in the Algiers Casbah killed eight people and wounded more than 50.

Mitsubishi settles sex case

New York: Mitsubishi, the Japanese carmaker, has agreed out of court to pay $9.5 million (£5.9 million) to 27 female workers who had sued for sexual discrimination and harassment (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The women, employed in Mitsubishi's plant at Normal, Illinois, launched their action in 1994, alleging that they had been abused and groped and passed over for promotion by male managers. Mitsubishi denies that the payment is an admission of wrongdoing. The company also promised to contribute $100,000 to "women's causes" in the area.

Russia tunes in to Soviet past

Moscow: A new television channel dedicated to Russian-made programmes is to be launched in November, President Yeltsin said (Richard Beeson writes). "Kultura" will show Soviet-era films, plays, concerts and documentaries. "The yearning for spirituality is an age-old feature of the Russian national character," he said. There has been a growing backlash in Russia against American soap operas such as *Dallas* and *Santa Barbara* and the sex and violence in Hollywood action films.

Court backs return of skull

A delegation of Aboriginal elders is expected to collect the skull of Yagan, left, from Liverpool tomorrow. The 19th century warrior's head was exhumed from a Liverpool grave earlier this month, but its return had been blocked by Corrie Bodney, a tribal elder. A Western Australia court yesterday said the delegation could go ahead, but must consult Mr Bodney, who had objected to their trip because none of them were Yagan's descendants and their mission was sacrilege.

Woman digs for victory

Prato: A woman won the job of gravedigger at a cemetery near Florence after all the male candidates fainted. Rossana Giusti was the only candidate for a re-run of the practical test, exhuming a body, after ten men trying for the job all keeled over. The problems of the Chiesanuova cemetery in Prato had been compounded by a job advertisement error, which called for "necrophiliacs" instead of *necrofori*, or gravediggers. *(Reuters)*

هكذا من الأصل

Loose cannon turns fire on art world

ROME FILE

by RICHARD OWEN

WHEN vandals damaged Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona last week by breaking off the tail of a sea monster, the Italian media instinctively turned to one man for an informed and acerbic comment: Professor Federico Zeri, Italy's leading art critic and historian.

Professor Zeri observed caustically that the only way to protect publicly displayed works of art such as fountains and sculptures was to "bring in the army" to guard Italy's treasures night and day. The remark caused almost as much uproar as the vandalism itself.

Professor Zeri has always been a loose cannon in the arts world — or in *La Repubblica*'s phrase, *un cane sciolto* (a dog off the leash). He is invariably photographed in a pose of grumpy outrage, cigar clamped between teeth or fingers. Earlier this year he was made a member of the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris. But he has received no such honours in his own country, and holds no university chair. Asked why, he replies: "Because I have always told the truth in a country in which human relations are based on hypocrisy and ambiguity. The only people who count in Italy are those who set out to harm others, and I want no part of such power." The universities, he said, are a "cultural desert" of corruption and favouritism. Yet even without an academic base, at 76, Professor Zeri is Italy's foremost authority on the fine arts. Admirers describe his knowledge of Italian art in the 15th and 16th centuries as "profound". He made his mark in the 1950s when he catalogued the collections of the Spada and Pallavicini families.

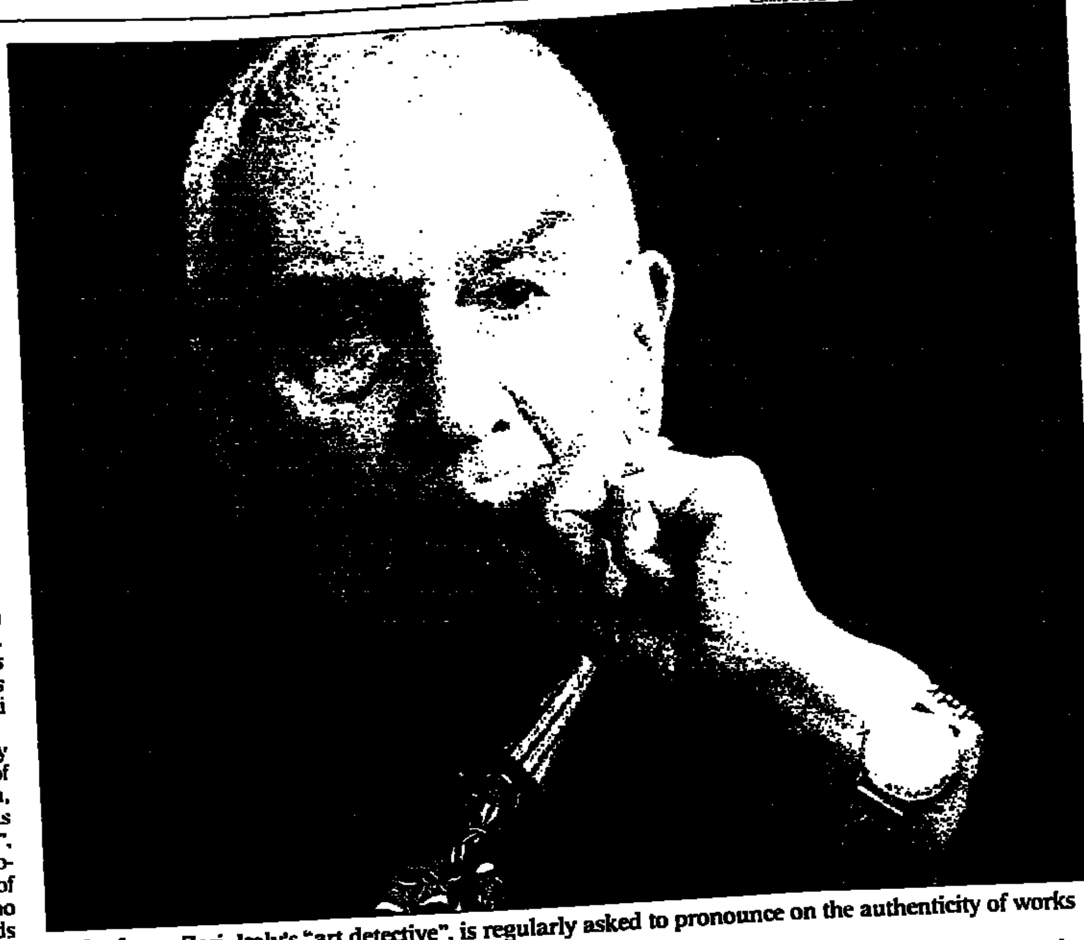
He has since published many acclaimed works on the history of art, appears regularly on television, and writes for *La Stampa*. He is Italy's best known "art detective", and is regularly asked to pronounce on the authenticity of works. It was Professor Zeri who discovered that sculpted heads fished out of the Arno River in Florence, and said to be by Modigliani, were forgeries made by students using a Black & Decker drill.. More recently he declared that frescoes in Assisi, long said to be by Giotto di Bondone, were by his lesser-known mentor, Cavallini. Detection fascinates him: and he has published a detective novel of his own, set in the art world.

From his library at Mentana, near Rome, which contains 80,000 volumes on art, Professor Zeri castigates the authorities at every opportunity for their mismanagement of Italy's vast artistic legacy. Rome's antiquities, he said this week, have been damaged over the centuries by fire, barbarian invasion and plunder, and are now threatened by neglect. "We are simply not capable of conserving our treasures," he thundered, blaming lack of resources for the fact that monuments and art objects are eaten away by pollution or left prey to vandals and thieves.

The real scandal, Professor Zeri maintains, is not so much the damage to the tail of Bernini's sea monster — which had been broken before, and repaired — as the chronic disappearance or mutilation of scores of hundreds of elegant statues that once decorated Rome's great villas and parks.

He is unimpressed by cultural heritage groups such as Italia Nostra — "a bunch of middle-class amateurs" — or by the efforts of Italy's centre-left Government to promote the arts. The Left, he says, merely expresses "the vainglorious aspirations of the petty bourgeoisie", while the former Communist intellectuals, at the heart of Italy's new establishment, are "frivolous impostors . . . weathercocks who go whichever way the wind blows".

EMMANUEL SCORCELLETTI / GAMMA / FSP



Professor Zeri, Italy's "art detective", is regularly asked to pronounce on the authenticity of works

Olympic embarrassment

ITALIAN newspapers are running daily countdowns to the International Olympic Committee's decision on Friday on whether Rome is to be the site of the Olympic Games in 2004, or whether the prize will go to one of the other candidates, such as Athens, Cape Town or Stockholm. In the meantime Il Messaggero, *the Rome daily, has drawn the Rome city authorities' attention to a potential embarrassment they may have overlooked: the site of Rome's Olympic stadium, the Foro Italico near the Tiber, is dominated by Fascist-era statues of heroically muscular athletes and a Carrara marble obelisk dedicated to Benito Mussolini, the Fascist dictator.*

The obelisk, with the words "Mussolini Dux" carved down its length, is one of the few remaining memorials to il Duce, who opened the sports centre in 1932 as a "symbol of youth, strength and beauty". Under the headline "But Mussolini doesn't live here any more", the paper suggested that if Rome does win, it might be best to dismantle the obelisk for the duration of the Games.

Spoke in Prodi's bike plan

PROFESSOR Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, is a keen cyclist, and is often photographed on his bike in his home town of Bologna, complete with helmet and cycling jersey. But he may have made a mistake in trying to persuade his countrymen to get on their bikes as well.

Perhaps inspired by the last European Union summit in Amsterdam, when all EU leaders were given bicycles to ride, Signor Prodi this week announced tax incentives for bicycle manufacturers and outlined a plan under which all Italian regions are to build more cycle paths.

But unlike the Dutch, the Italians have never had a love affair with the bike. There is only one cycle path in Rome, where the famous Seven Hills tend to discourage anything so energetic as cycling.

Moreover, the Government's plan has upset a powerful lobby: the bike expansion scheme is to be paid for not only by a rise in the price of petrol but also by an increase in road tax on scooters and motorbikes. This is a dangerous move: while Italians may not much like pedalling, they most certainly do have a romantic attachment to the Vespa, which has just celebrated its 50th anniversary. Signor Prodi is said to be having second thoughts.

Far-right Mayor enlists aid of 'praetorian guard'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

Bruno Mégret and his wife, Catherine, Vitrolles Mayor

THE National Front Mayor of Vitrolles in the South of France has been accused of fomenting tension by trying to turn the local police force into a personal "praetorian guard" for her party.

This week Catherine Mégret, wife of the National Front deputy leader Bruno Mégret and winner of the mayoral election in Vitrolles earlier this year, announced plans to double the municipal police force, claiming that the national police were failing to protect citizens in the racially-divided town.

Under French law, municipal police are under the Mayor's direct control, while the national police are organised from Paris. Mme Mégret said the municipal force would be increased from 36 to 70 officers, only marginally smaller than the national police force in Vitrolles.

"The National Front wants a police force it can give orders to," Jean-Claude Delage, regional leader of the Alliance police union, said. Another police union, the SNPT, also attacked what it called "the recruitment of a veritable praetorian guard of 70 officers".

France has a long history of rivalry between police forces at the national and local levels, but open conflict broke out in Vitrolles earlier this month after a resident in one of the town's most troubled neighbourhoods opened fire on a group of noisy youths. Mme Mégret appeared to take the side of the gunman, insisting that "rather than arrest victims of insecurity, the police should go after those responsible for it".

She accused the national police of failing to do their job. "Not content with failing to intervene to ensure respect for the peace and tranquillity of ordinary citizens, the national police have even suggested that our municipal police do not intervene," she said.

Residents opposed to the National Front say that animosity is already rife between the municipal police and residents of the town's housing estates, many of whom are North African. The National Front municipal authorities recently cut financing for youth associations and opponents say the plans to boost the municipal police and to plant a 24-hour police post in the very middle of the most troubled neighbourhood is intended as a direct provocation.

"We are heading for some very, very serious problems. The youngsters have nothing to do thanks to the National Front," one local Front councillor said.

Last month Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Interior Minister, expressed concern over the ill-defined role of France's 15,000 municipal policemen, and pledged to bring in regulations setting precise limits on their authority.

Italian serial killer targets old women

BY RICHARD OWEN

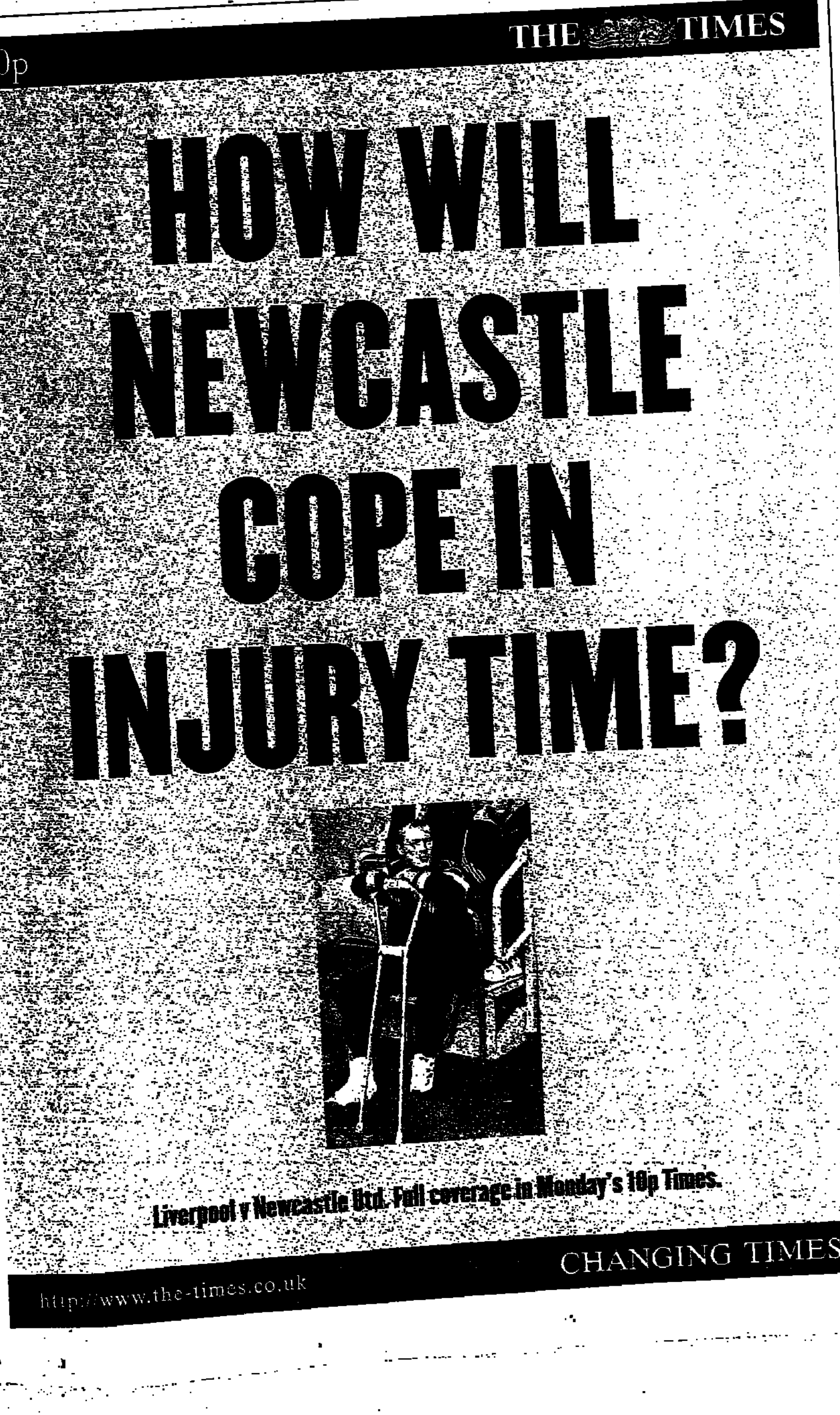
FEARS that a serial killer who preys on elderly women in rural areas of southern Italy is still at large returned yesterday with the murder of an 84-year-old grandmother at Spinazzola, near Bari.

There has been a spate of "granny killings" in Apulia (Puglia) since April last year, when Celeste Madonna, 81, was murdered in her home at Lucera, in Foggia province. Nine further killings of elderly women have followed.

Police say that in four cases it is not clear whether there is a link. But six of the murders, including the latest, follow a pattern: the victims lived in ground floor flats and the killer laid the bodies out neatly on their backs, placing a cross and in some cases a family photograph on the chest. The victims' throats were cut with a knife or screwdriver.

In the latest murder Angela Sansone, who had eight children and numerous grandchildren, was found in her ground floor flat in the rural community of 15,000 where she lived alone. Her skull had been smashed and her throat cut.

Police believe the murderer is a young man who gains entrance by using a position of trust. He may may dress as a priest to fool his victims.



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City of masterpieces

IN ANOTHER adroit piece of Proms programme planning, the two concerts given by the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra under Neville Marriner, on Wednesday and Thursday, both featured works associated with that city. In the first, all three works were first given in Leipzig: Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto was written for the orchestra's leader, Ferdinand David; Schubert's Ninth Symphony was first conducted by Mendelssohn in Leipzig, 11 years after the composer's death; and, a century and a half on, Hans Werner Henze's Second Sonata for Strings was first performed by the Gewandhaus Orchestra, for whom it was written, last November.

It was in fact a Bruckner performance by the orchestra that acted as a catalyst for Henze. Not that his piece — for all its richness of texture — sounds much like Bruckner, but its predominantly elegiac tone perhaps reflects Henze's awareness of the precarious nature of a great tradition.

The resonant Leipzig strings came into their own here, as they did in Schubert's Ninth, where they blended beautifully with rounded woodwind and burnished brass. Impeccable as the execution was, it was sadly wasted on a non-existent interpretation. Hardly a phrase was shaped as though it meant anything, and each paragraph merged into the next without expressive punctuation. If the period instrument movement has taught us one thing, it is that well-sculpted phrasing, incisive articulation and pungent instrumental colouring are vital to the lifeblood of such scores. Marriner's reading was bland, featureless and uneventful.

BBC PROMS

Leipzig Orch/ Marriner

Albert Hall/Radio 3

If there was more interest in the Mendelssohn Concerto, it was largely due to the solo playing of the young American Leila Josefowicz, a Marriner protégée. She phrased the opening subject broadly and with fine attention to nuance, but even more arresting was the drawn-out pianissimo with which she raised the curtain on the second subject. Technical assurance one can mostly take for granted these days, but Josefowicz's personal stamp marked her out as a musician with something to say.

Thursday's programme maintained the Leipzig connection with Schumann's Piano Concerto and Mendelssohn's *Scottish Symphony*, both premiered in that city. As with Schubert the previous evening, one yearned for more expressive shaping of Mendelssohn's melodies, for a real spring in the step of the fast movements. Most of it seemed to go by on autopilot.

If the Schumann concerto was on a different level, it was due entirely to the inspiration of Alfred Brendel. To the solo part he brought all the sensibility and poetic eloquence that was lacking elsewhere. His ability to identify and exploit underlying harmonic tensions is unerring, enabling him to project an introspective view of the part, in which mere virtuosity plays a subsidiary role. With more characterful direction from the podium this might have been a performance to treasure.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Welcome home, stranger

JAZZ: For 20 years Salena Jones has wowed the Japanese; now she is back to stay. **Clive Davis** reports

East, West, Britain's best: Salena Jones is rediscovering her adopted "big little" country

Not so much a comeback, more a chance to become reacquainted with an old friend. When Salena Jones appears at the Queen Elizabeth Hall next Tuesday her band will open the proceedings with that venerable Rodgers and Hart number *Have You Met Miss Jones?*. The song title hints at the ambiguous progress of the American expatriate's career over the past two decades.

In that time the Japanese, ardent connoisseurs of all things connected with jazz, have heard rather more of her than audiences in Britain. That is not to say that Jones — who came to this country in the mid-1960s — has been a complete stranger to our stage in recent years; she has, after all, toured with the BBC Big Band and played a couple of cabaret residencies at Pizza On The Park.

But the Far East has had the better of things since her first visit to Japan in 1978. While she amassed a lucrative quota of bestselling recordings for the Japanese label JVC, there was silence at this end, at least as far as albums were concerned. Having started out here as a fixture of the jazz-cabaret circuit, Jones (like many other singers from her end of the musical spectrum) found openings growing scarcer. To many in the British music industry it was a case, as she laughingly admits, of "Salena who?".

"If you're not Celine Dion some of these people won't have heard of you," she says, sitting in her home in Buckinghamshire's stockbroker belt. "Unless you do a striptease in Leicester Square, they're not going to remember you. And even if you do that they'll be looking at something else three days later."

In Japan, as many a visiting performer has been happy to discover, they take their music more seriously. So much so that, at one point, Jones came close to uprooting herself from England and settling in Kobe. Fortunately for us, she decided against the move — although she is still about to start Japanese language classes at night school in preparation for her next trip East.

It Amazes Me, the eminently relaxed jazz album she recorded last year for HMV as a fundraiser for the Save the Children Fund, was her first UK release in 18 years. All of a sudden the drought seems to be turning into a flood. *It Amazes Me* has been followed by two easy-listening collections — *Salena Jones On Broadway* and *Salena Jones In Hollywood* — made for producer John Yap's musical theatre label, TER. Better still, Jones's own company, Vine Gate Music, has also issued her elegant tribute to the Brazilian songwriter Antonio Carlos Jobim.

As its title suggests, *Salena Sings Jobim With The Jobims* boasts contributions by members of the composer's family band as well as the great bossa nova pioneer himself — making one of his last studio sessions before his untimely death. A compilation of her past work with guitarist Kenny Burrell and saxophonist Richie Cole is due out here in November, and Jones will play at the Café Royal's Green Room in October.

In her programme next week Irving Berlin will be rubbing shoulders with Oscar Hammerstein, Marvin Hamlisch and the Beatles. Jones's sultry voice has something of the velvet warmth of her idol Sarah Vaughan, though she is more interested in unadorned storytelling than the coloratura displays that became Vaughan's trademark.

Born in the same Virginia town as Ella Fitzgerald, Jones followed Fitzgerald's example by winning a talent competition at Harlem's Apollo Theatre. She eventually found herself moving in the same circles as Billy Eckstine and Lena Horne, but by 1964 her sense of personal dissatisfaction was compounded by her despair at America's racial divisions. "By the time of the march on Washington I knew that with all these things happening around me, my voice wouldn't be heard. I needed to be somewhere else."

Europe beckoned. On a visit to a travel agent to choose a destination, she opted for pot luck, buying a one-way ticket to Madrid after sticking a pin in an atlas. A year later she moved on to London where, among other things, she soon settled into a long engagement at Ronnie Scott's. Thirty years later, she says, the time has come to rediscover the "big little country" that has become her adopted home.

● *Salena Jones is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4242) on Tuesday Sept 2*

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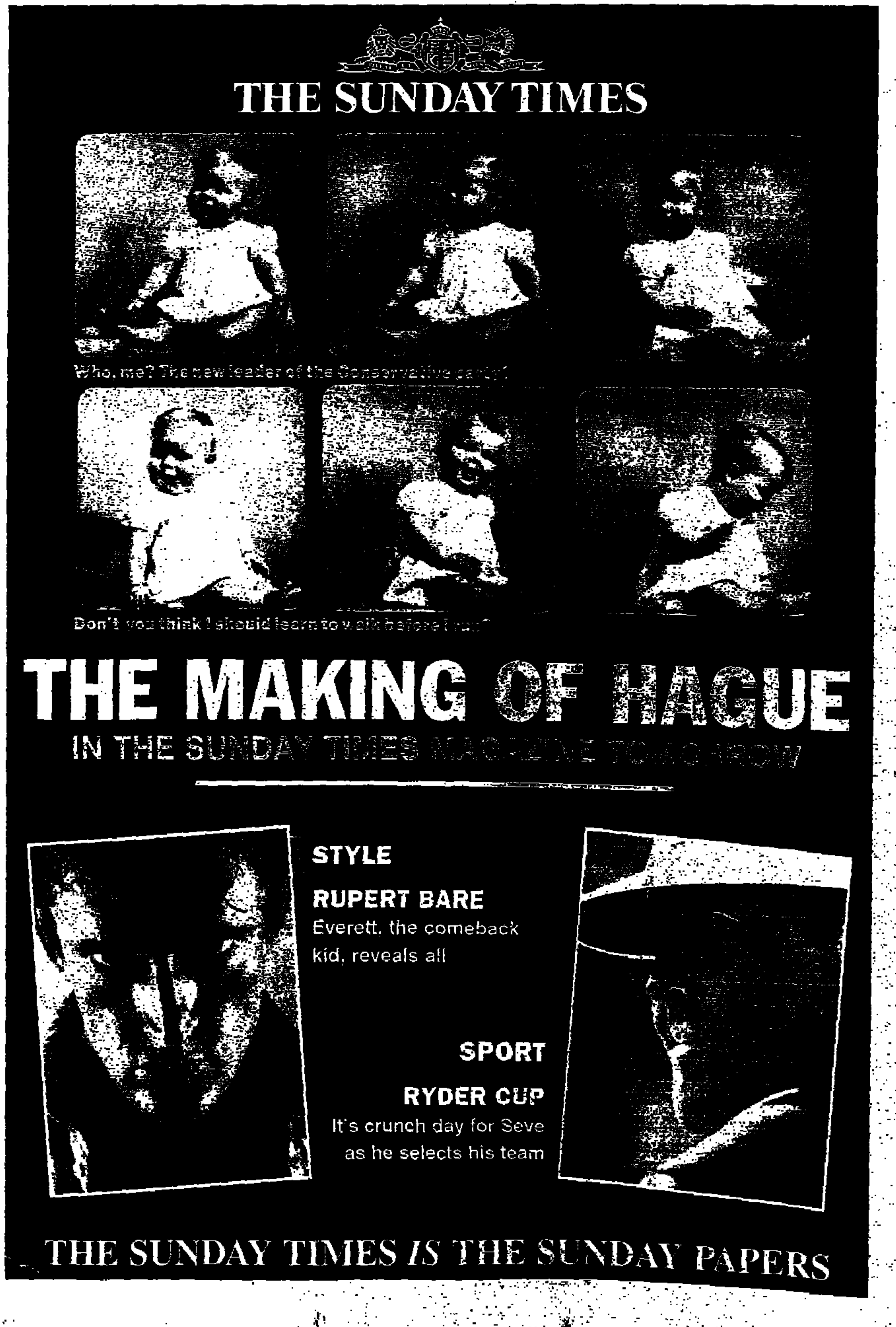
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A classic case of listener satisfaction

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

The words "you either hate it or you love it" are much overused. But in the case of Classic FM, no lesser cliché will do. Classic FM polarises opinions in the same way that abortion, the Garrick Club, the garden gnome or theme pubs do. We are not really talking here about a radio station, or a bright new way of popularising classical music. This thing is bigger than that. It is more a way of life — a quintessential slice of middle-aged, middle-brow, middle-class, Middle England.

Playing classical music on the radio is, in a sense, no more the raison d'être of Classic FM than tea-drinking is the raison d'être of a Buckingham Palace garden party, or knocking little balls into holes is the *raison d'être* of your average golf club. The real point is social and aspirational. Tune into Classic FM, and you tune into a very reassuring world, as comforting and comfortable as a cardigan.

The Classic FM *ethos* is, depending on your taste, genteel or wet, humorous or twee, welcoming or cloying, unpretentious or philistine. *It is entirely characteristic of the station that*, when it decided to poach some stalwart BBC personalities, it went straight to Richard Baker and the *Gardeners' Question Time* panel. And that when it held a "favourite poem week" its listeners voted Wordsworth's *Daffodils* and Kipling's *If* first and second. Classic FM's current *programme director, Steve Orchard*, recently defined his typical listener's *idea of bliss as* "an extra long bath with a glass of champagne, and Classic FM in the background". That says it all. As we agreed earlier, you either hate Classic FM or you love it.

But five million people, according to the latest ratings, do love it. And as Classic FM prepares to celebrate its fifth birthday next weekend, even the snootiest music critics are forced to admit, through gritted *dentures, that it has been one of the world's great broadcasting* success stories. It attracted four million listeners within four months of its launch. It has spawned a music magazine and two record labels. It has cloned itself into identical stations across the world; *yet another* subsidiary, Classic FM Johannesburg, is *launched this Monday.*

It single-handedly created the most unlikely smash-hit album of the Nineties: the funereal Third Symphony by the modern Polish composer Henryk Gorecki. It supplies all the classical inflight music for BA. It has made several small but cleverly publicised forays into music education, the most recent being a £3 million partnership to set up an academy for outstanding young musicians in Surrey. And its shareholders are getting rich, finally. The station turned in a £4 million loss in 1996, but was bought for £71 million by the local-radio group GWR last December, smartened up, and has already moved into profit.

Finally, as the only *non*-BBC national commercial *radio station*, Classic FM has spearheaded the extraordinary advance in commercial radio, which now attracts an annual £318 million of advertising and more than 50 per cent of the total radio audience. Classic FM has *blown* great holes in the *confidence of the people running not only Radio 3, but Radios 2* and *4 as well — which accounts for the panicky tampering with* schedules at the BBC this summer.

So why do so many people, particularly in the classical music business, resent Classic FM's success? The answer must be that it is the *wrong kind* of success. The expectation was that if Classic FM succeeded, it would draw many millions of people into a new enjoyment of serious music, and lead them onwards into the concert hall and the opera house.

Well, Classic FM *has* succeeded, but audiences for classical concerts *have never* been worse. Nor have *sales of serious new classical* CDs. The "*leading onward*" bit has simply not happened. The converts seem to remain trapped in Classic FM's entertaining but unchallenging world — and if they do buy a classical CD they plump for more of the *same: a compilation of snippets, rather than an entire* work. *Indeed, there is some feeling that* Classic FM has actually *contributed* to the decline of the *serious concert:* music-lovers who previously were prepared to concentrate through a long symphony have been brain-curdled by the soundbite culture of Classic FM to the extent that they no longer have the patience or the inclination.

That's disappointing for our orchestras and arts councils. But surely the anger about Classic FM is misplaced. *Its shallow presentational style, turning a blind ear* to all the interpretative nuances and historical details that give classical music its richness, may strike the cognoscenti as lamentable. But it is a commercial station. Its first duty *is to stay in business* by attracting listeners and advertising.

That it has been able to *do this* while using "esoteric" classical music is remarkable. If you read the press clippings from 1992 you will find plenty of commentators declaring the format to be suicidal. But we ask *too much if we demand evangelical miracles* as well. Converting mass audiences *to culture* is chiefly the job of those who receive large dollops of public subsidy, and one of the scandals of postwar Britain has been their disgraceful neglect of this task. For all its faults, Classic FM conveys the notion that great music is there to be *enjoyed* — and enjoyed by anybody. And that crucial message is something that our more highbrow musical organisations sometimes seem to overlook.

The American nightmare

THEATRE

Hurlyburly

Queens

California is California because someone tilted the North American continent, and every nut, every creep with a screw loose slid there. So says one of the saner characters in David Rabe's play, a go-go dancer and good-*time girl who has just been pushed out of a moving car by* a paranoid who has mistaken her smile for a slur on *his* embattled manhood. On the evidence of the sophisticated retards, emotional drifters and coke-snorting misogynists who share her Hollywood habitat, she seriously understates the case.

Almost everyone admired Rabe's venomous comedy *when it opened at the Old Vic* last March. Wilson Milam's partly recast production — Jenny Seagrove energetically substituting for Elizabeth McGovern as an inwardly troubled fashion photographer, and podgy Mark Benton replacing skinny Stephen Dillane as a harried screenwriter — *seems almost stronger.* Stay away if *you are repelled by* chaotic people feverishly exchanging a mixture of meandering four-letter bile and pompous psychobabble and ponderous sociodrivel. Go to the Queens if you have the bottle to encounter the sound and sight of American rootlessness *at its most unsettled and unsettling.*

The male characters share an array of ex-wives, seldom-seen children, and careers or would-be careers in the film business. Prime among them is Rupert Graves's Eddie, a casting director whose latest protégé is Andy Serkis's Phil, a thuggish ex-con and know-nothing who improbably *hopes to become an actor. You could not call their relation*ship a friendship, for nothing so committed and fixed exists in this human jungle. It is more likely — as David Tennant, playing Eddie's cool, callous room-mate, tells him — that "no matter how low you *manage* to fall, Phil will always be lower".

As it turns out, both men fall *rather lower than the average* kerb. Both are also brilliantly played. Serkis even manages to win a little sympathy for Phil, who out-Calibans Caliban in his violence and frustrated rage, yet is well aware of his own awful inadequacy. Eddie is a more complex being, but a sweaty, restless Graves produces all the ugly self-absorption, casual malice, manipulative self-aggrandisement and ontological *unease required of him.*

If there is something slightly specious about the passages in which Eddie *laments* ozone layers and neutron bombs, it is not his fault, but that of an author trying too hard to suggest he is the victim of our confused, godless world. When Graves has to accept a sexual "care package" in the form of a homeless girl a friend has found in *an elevator, or inform the woman Phil has flung from her car that* her tactlessness is to blame for her injuries, or turn on Phil and tell him he will never be more than macho background "to make movie bullshit look real" — well, he has a bite that nobody who thinks of him as a Merchant-Ivory hero will believe. *Be warned, or be glad, or both: he and the play will leave toothmarks on your* mind.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL

California kooks: new cast member Jenny Seagrove is Darlene, a fashion photographer; Rupert Graves is Eddie, the casually malicious casting director

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: A vividly impressive rendition of Wagner, and a noisy, revelatory production of Chekhov

Raging climax to a high-speed ride

OPERA

Die Walküre

Usher Hall

ANY disappointment at Bryn Terfel's withdrawal *from* Thursday's concert of the *third* act of *Die Walküre* soon evaporated: we may have been deprived of a first taste of the next generation's Wotan, but we had this generation's, John Tomlinson, on absolutely top form and a fresh, consistently exciting account of the music under Antonio Pappano.

Not that Tomlinson, hot *from duties at Bayreuth, would* recognise the *term* "concert performance": he lived the role just as vividly as he does on stage. His rage at the truculent Valkyries was so incandescent that his mopping his brow with a hankie in the aftermath was perfectly understandable. And we had the best of both worlds in that, without the distraction of a stage production, he was able to *sing* with more light and shade and more subtlety of phrase than is always the case in the theatre.

Jane Eaglen (Brünnhilde) was on equally impressive form, her tone wonderfully solid and even. Even more satisfying than such rock-solid singing *qua* singing are the insights she brings to the role, and the genuine feeling for words and their meaning. The whole *War es so schmählich* passage was delivered with touching eloquence, and her *christening of the unborn Siegfried on a perfectly poised*, soft high A flat was a moment to treasure. Adrianne Pieczonka was the radiant and steady Sieglinde, and there was a notably spirited team of Valkyries led by Cara O'Sullivan and Alwyn Mellor.

Pappano is best known here for the Italian repertory but, as the interview in Thursday's *Times reminded us*, he has been well and truly blooded at *Bayreuth. The only Italianate aspect of the performance was* an easy lyrical flow — at around 70 minutes this was a pretty brisk reading — and a welcome warmth in his treatment of the tunes.

But he also understands that secret of conducting Wagner: evenness of overall pulse. He thinks in long paragraphs and forges the links between *them unobtrusively* — all *this without skimping on the big* moments.

Sieglinde's final outburst, Wotan's chromatic approach and the climax of the father-daughter duet blew us out of our seats. The Royal Scottish National Orchestra gave a big but not particularly disciplined account of the score.

RODNEY MILNES

Hammering home new truths

THEATRE

The Cherry Orchard

Festival Theatre

CRITICS of Peter Stein's *Uncle Vanya*, seen here last year, did not care for the background noise of dogs, birds, bells and what all, pointing out that Chekhov used to write *letters protesting* against such *over-declaration*. Evidently unimpressed by such criticism, Stein provides *The Cherry Orchard* with barking dogs when the travellers return from Paris, starlings as dawn breaks, bells to mark the remorseless passage of time, offstage billiards, onstage hiccups and such a cacophony of noise *when the house* is locked *up that one cannot* isolate the *first* axe *thudding* into the cherry tree.

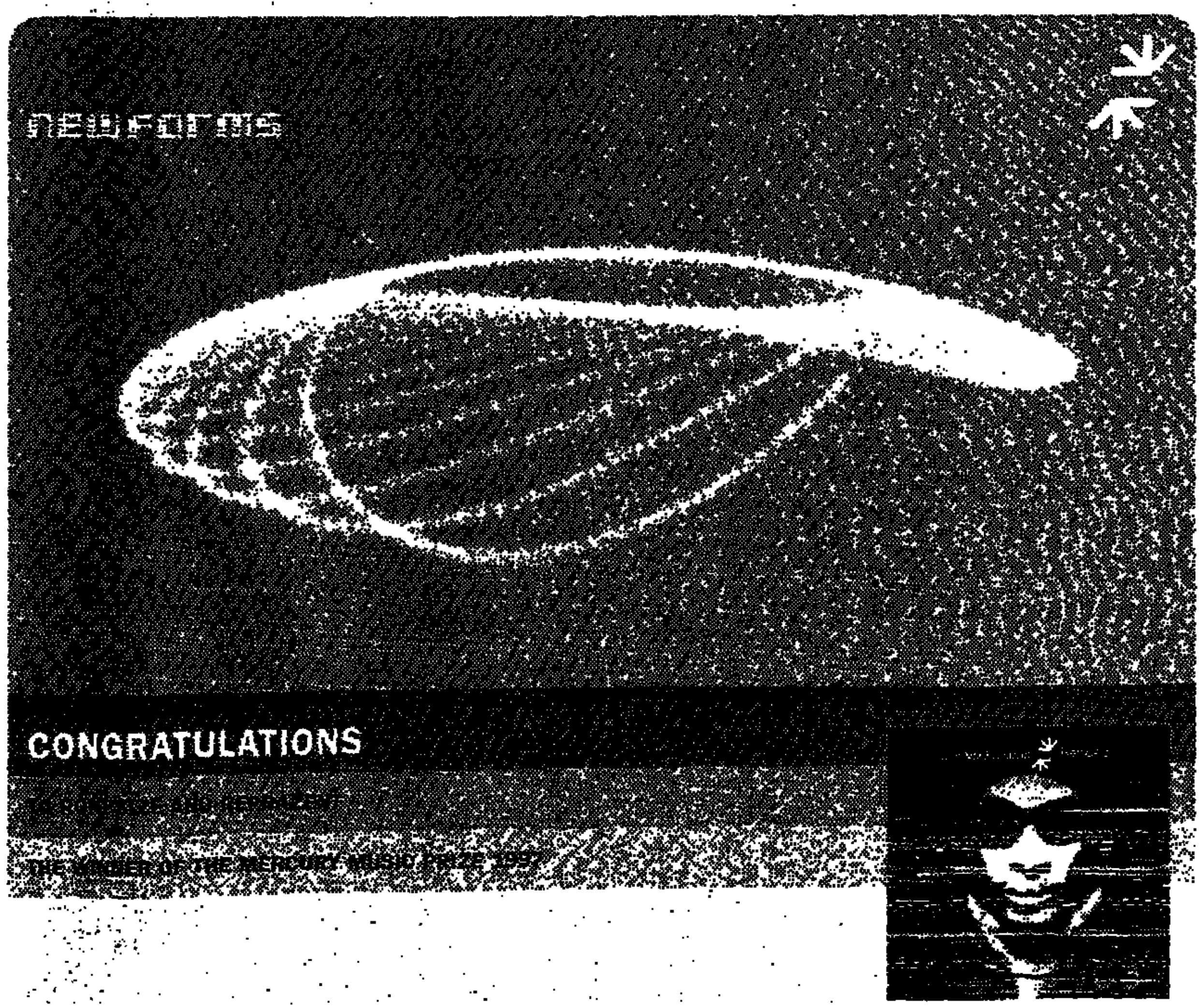
Some of these *sound effects* serve their purpose tactfully and well but others go over the top — and even go all around us when the hammering starts — doubtless to make the audience feel as if they are inside the doomed premises. The error is really a matter of placing and degree.

These blemishes disturb an otherwise perceptive and largely persuasive production, rich in tiny details of behav*iour that, yes, can catch our attention* while another char*acter is speaking* but *mysteriously do not distract from it. Of if they do, then it is for a greater purpose.* After Gayev has praised the venerable bookcase for the wisdom it has imparted — and a fat lot of use he has made of it — Stein makes Yasha, the affected valet, use its glass front to preen his hair. A tremendous sense develops of individuals appearing in front of us from lives lived with equivalent detail just out of view.

Talking of which, the curtains of the nursery are drawn against the view in the first act. Characters part them slightly and peep through, describing the orchard beyond. Eventually the curtains are drawn and, although there *are fewer cherry trees then we have a right to expect, the beauty of the massed* white blossoms helps *to explain* why the feckless Ranyevskaya and her brother refuse to consider chopping them down.

Jutta Lampe's Ranyevskaya, a beauty in purple and sable when she arrives, soon shows the hopeless superficiality of the woman. Capable of pain, tears and so on, but the vanished orchard would have become just another ingredient for the irruptions of self-pity. Because Stein begins actions some time before the accompanying words, he *shows* how Charlotta's *performance with a pretend baby, which afterwards she throws away, precisely comments upon* Ranyevskaya's actual behaviour *with her daughter*. I had never twigged this before, and for such revelations even the cacophonous hammering is worth enduring.

JEREMY KINGSTON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ملفات الاهرام

In his first big political intervention since the election, **John Major** appeals to the Scots and Welsh to reject Labour's devolution plans

Say no to this doomed enterprise

In a few days' time, Scotland will decide whether it wants a parliament in Edinburgh and, if so, whether it should have tax-raising powers. A week later, Wales will decide whether it wants an assembly in Cardiff.

Absurdly, the Scots and Welsh will have to vote on this, the most significant constitutional issue for years, before Parliament has had a chance to debate and amend the required legislation. What if Parliament changes the legislation in a material way? Will there be a further referendum, as there should be? The answer is "no". The purpose of these referendums is to give the Government a blank cheque — which it will then use to stifle debate in Parliament.

I fear the Government will not take this constitutional legislation on the floor of the House of Commons, even though this has always happened in the past. It will pack the Commons committees with placemen and deny most Members of Parliament the right to contribute to debate on an issue that will change the face of our country. And it will point to the results of the referendums, if the Scots and Welsh vote "yes", to prevent MPs changing the legislation.

The Government has treated the House of Commons with contempt on several occasions since the election: this, however, strikes me as the most serious. It is the Government of arrogance.

I hope the Scots and the Welsh will vote "no" in the referendums. I hope that for the sake of the United Kingdom as a whole, but also for Scotland and Wales: they have a lot to lose under the Government's proposals.

At present, every part of the United Kingdom does well out of the Union. Economically, the four countries of the Union benefit from a single market. Culturally, our lives have been enriched by our shared history and identity. Abroad, we get a stronger voice in organisations such as the European Union, G7, United Nations and Nato.

Nor does the Union prevent decisions being taken by the Scottish and Welsh people. As Prime Minister, I ensured that more and more power was devolved to individuals, local communities and the people who serve them — such as teachers and doctors. Ironically, Labour opposed all that.

The previous Conservative Government also expanded the role of Scottish and Welsh MPs by increasing the powers of the Grand Committees. The Scottish Grand now has more say over purely Scottish Bills and its Welsh counterpart can do business in Welsh. Both can question members of the Cabinet, including the Prime Minister. The proposed Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly will not have the power to do that.

Labour says that devolution would promote the Union and give the Scots and Welsh more say over their own affairs. Whether it truly believes this I cannot say. I do know that devolution is more likely to break up the Union than promote it and that, in so far as it may offer the Scots and Welsh marginally more say over their own affairs in a few areas, this advantage is swamped by the disadvantages the advocates of devolution seek to hide.

Nor am I alone in believing that devolution would be the first step to breaking up our country: both the SNP and Plaid Cymru agree, which is why they are campaigning for a "yes" vote in the referendums. They want an independent Scotland and Wales and believe independence would follow the conflict between England, Scotland and Wales that devolution will inevitably create.

Conflict would be greatest with Scotland, where devolution takes on its most potent form. First, and most seriously, there is the West Lothian Question. After devolution, English MPs would have no say on purely Scottish affairs. And yet Scottish MPs at Westminster would be allowed to vote on purely English issues. This is odd on two counts — Scottish MPs at Westminster would not be able to vote on many issues that affect their own constituents because they would be dealt with in the Scottish parliament. But they could vote on the same issues affecting the constituents of English MPs. This is a nonsense and totally unacceptable. English MPs, and their constituents, would not — and should not — tolerate this situation for long.

It has been suggested that Scottish MPs should not be allowed to vote on purely English issues. But suppose they were banned from voting on English matters. That would mean the governing party could have a majority in the House of Commons on some issues, but not on others. It would be a recipe for chaos. Should, for example, a Government resign if beaten on an important issue upon which it was a minority? The Government has not even addressed these issues.

Secondly, public spending has traditionally been higher in Scotland and Wales than in England. The difference is quite significant: £871 per head more in Scotland and £609 per head more in Wales during 1995-96. The English accept that resources should be allocated according to need — and, for that reason, have been willing to help to provide essential services in Scotland and Wales. But as living standards have risen in Scotland over the past 20 years this transfer of resources has become progressively less defensible.

Now, under the devolution proposals, Scotland will have its own tax-raising powers. But if, as Labour claims, the Edinburgh parliament could cut income tax in Scotland by 3p in the pound then the case for ending the transfer of excessive resources to Scotland is unanswerable. My constituents would not take kindly to, in effect, subsidising tax cuts in Scotland.

In practice, however, a Scottish parliament would not cut taxes. It would increase them, initially by the "tartan tax" of 3p in the pound, which would hit the low-paid especially hard. The average Scotsman would end up paying an extra £6 a week in income tax. Later, it would go up further. New parliaments increase taxes — all history shows us that.

Devolution would also have a devastating effect on business as Sir Bruce Pattullo, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, has warned. His comments were echoed by Scottish Financial Enterprise, which represents the country's financial services industry. The extra tier of government would delay decisions and burden firms — it would create uncertainty and hence cut investment and cost jobs. As Scotland and Wales became uncompetitive, they would become once again the unemployment blackspots that Conservative Governments removed over the past 18 years.

So devolution would hurt business. It would hurt people. It would take power away from individuals and mean higher taxes for Scots. It would eventually lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom.

Nor would devolution truly give more powers to the Scottish and Welsh people. Only independence would do that and when the frustrations of the Government's ill-thought-out halfway house become apparent, independence is what will be demanded. What devolution does is create another layer of politicians and bureaucrats — who would increase red tape, put up taxes and take power away from individuals and the new unitary authorities. In practice, more power will be sucked up from local authorities than devolved from the House of Commons.

I write as an Englishman and for that reason many Scots may choose to turn a deaf ear to what I say. But as an Englishman I can see clearly how non-Scots will react to devolution and a Scottish tax-raising parliament.

I like and admire Scotland and the Scots. Their contribution to the United Kingdom has been immense. I do not wish to see them embark on this doomed enterprise. They face a fateful decision and I wish them the wisdom to vote "no".

Jeffrey Bernard is really unwell

The poet of alcohol and tobacco deserves to die with dignity

Simon Jenkins

REX

Jeffrey Bernard (left) argues with Peter O'Toole, who played the heavy-drinking columnist on the West End stage

Jeffrey Bernard is seriously unwell. His "Low Life" column in *The Spectator* has run 21 years but did not appear this week. Previous ones written from his Middlesex Hospital bed have suggested that the end is near. Deciding to withdraw from kidney dialysis is, he writes, like being a prisoner in front of a firing squad. The victim sees soldiers pull their triggers but must stand, "watching the bullets coming slowly towards him for three weeks or more".

Bernard's way of death is only public because he chooses to make it so. He has fashioned a career from the introspection of the saloon bar drunk. For two decades he has been a one-man gossip column about himself. A long-running play by Keith Waterhouse in 1989 celebrated his hangover. *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell* did for middle-class alcoholism what *Trainspotting* did for heroin. It made the awful seem commonplace. If art is a mirror of society, these portrayals of addiction are grotesque. Heroin is glamorised by movies, fashion make-up, and ministers sending MI6 to the opium dens of the Orient. Addiction to alcohol is treated with endearment. Peter O'Toole delighted West End audiences by imitating Bernard, rolling across the stage decrying those who abused drunkenness. There is, he implied, a loveable addict in us all.

Smoking and drinking, to both of which Bernard has been in thrall since youth, have remained his stock in trade to the end. He has become the de Quincey of the bottle and the fag, deftly drawing readers into his Soho half-life, with its long-dead ghosts. For him hospital has plainly been hell, testing to destruction his mastery of self-pity. His last few columns have been closet pleas for another puff in the loo or another drink under the sheets.

Yet while his reminiscences of Soho life had risked becoming tedious, Low Life at the Middlesex has brought us back to reality with panache. Bernard's journalism is no longer that of self-abuse but of hospital-abuse. His rage is directed outwards. He throws down a gauntlet at those who dismiss him as nothing but a soak. Soaks have rights, he cries, not least when their drink and tobacco taxes must have paid for their treatment and to spare.

Like a good columnist, Bernard is liberal in his hates. He now hates doctors. "I hear endlessly how sympathetic, understanding and compassionate they are," he protests, "and I don't believe a word of it." They seem immune to his cries of pain. He is prescribed 50 units of pethidine. A nurse refuses to give him more than 25 because "in her judgment" that is enough. How dare she be the judge of his pain? He turns to wondering what pain he would "judge enough" by way of retaliation.

After the pethidine comes the Chlorpromazine, again underprescribed by his "palliative care team", so that his home visits are spent in an agony of itching. Time was when his aches and pains were relieved with a few vodkas. Those on dialysis are not allowed alcohol, yet are restricted in their intake of painkillers. Bernard writes as a man who has surrendered his physical self to an authoritarian abstraction. His organs are no longer his to mess about. To do so would damage something far greater than a mortal body. It would spoil the handiwork of an esteemed profession. To him, the NHS has become an exercise in pre-emptive body-snatching.

There are battles over every pleasure. A friend in another ward is refused permission to drink a Guinness, the day before he dies of cancer. Everyone must eat pre-cooked "franchised" food under direction of a hospital dietician. Bernard cannot have a tomato and beetroot salad. Nor is he allowed a Chinese takeaway, since its potassium additives "might cause a heart attack". The tea is powdered and has him pouring with sweat.

Many hospital patients, including those with illnesses unrelated to smoking, are addicted to nicotine. For them a cigarette can make pain more bearable. At very least, nicotine is surely an allowable comfort to the terminally ill. Apparently not at the Middlesex. It is a "no-smoking" hospital and the dying must set an example to the living. For some patients this must be truly awful. Bernard's plea for a room for addicts to have the brief respite of a smoke is refused. "If a man can't take a Woodbine with him to his death," he wails, "then there is indeed a bit of hell on earth."

I do not know Jeffrey Bernard and carry no brief for his behaviour in hospital. He appears a near intolerable patient, a parody of the hypochondriac in *Doctor in the House*. Staff at the Middlesex must endure his complaints and then see themselves traduced in *The Spectator*. In their place, some might be tempted to substitute strychnine for pethidine. Nor will Bernard elicit much public sympathy. Dialysis is expensive and is normally reserved for the otherwise healthy. He is lucky to have any reprieve, however brief and however miserable he finds it. If a government demanded compulsory private insurance for all heavy smokers and drinkers, most people would say amen.

Yet death from any cause has become expensive. Smoking and drinking, I am told, are cost-effective to the NHS. Those who die young from lung cancer and renal failure make smaller lifetime claims on the health budget than those who live to old age. The latter require new hips, heart bypasses, drugs and geriatric care. The case against smoking on "health cost" grounds is simply wrong. Those who choose to die this way do the rest of us a favour.

Yet the force in Bernard's complaint is not the cost but the indignity. In his weekly rerun of Shaw's *Doctor's Dilemma*, he has accused medicine of treating his death as an exercise in professional arrogance. His final months have been not so much miserable and painful but in his view unnecessarily so. Intensive treatment may keep a patient alive for a while, but it has become a patient transformed by drugs, imprisoned by hospital rules and damned by deprivation.

His doctors will rightly say that patients have choices. Dialysis is not compulsory and the sick can make "living wills", legally restricting medicine's freedom to intervene in death. Bernard chose to extend his life by means of medicine. Despite having tried suicide before, he admitted when beginning dialysis that "death has lost its charm". Like Woody Allen, he decided rather late to seek immortality by not dying.

What shocked him, and shocks others in similar straits, are the humiliations inflicted on those who make this choice. To the able-bodied, a glass of Guinness or a cigarette may seem a trivial sacrifice in the cause of frontline medical discipline. To those dying in a strange bed, they can be the most intense of comforts. Even condemned murderers were once allowed such consolations.

Shaw was right. All professions are conspiracies against the laity. Anyone at the mercy of a lawyer, an architect or, for that matter, a journalist will know the meaning of professional capture. There is no escape without pain. With medicine there may be no escape, period. Spurred on by negligence lawyers, ambulance-chasing reporters, league tables and public hysteria over health scares, doctors have hijacked death. Social service staff find it near impossible to allow an old person's wish to die at home. They may be sued for neglect. "Died alone" is a shock headline to a newspaper. Who cares that it may have been the fondest wish of the dying?

The handling of death has been nationalised. The final experience of the human will is commandeered by an agency of the State, the NHS. To ram home its authority, hospitals impose their own rules and disciplines, in collusion not with patients but with the freemasonry of medicine.

So good luck to Jeffrey Bernard. I hope he can restore dignity to his escape. I hope he plots his own exit, draws his own map, and carries with him the consolations of his choosing.

Single-sex schools top the league tables. **Averil Burgess** explains

Girl power is no secret

To one who has for many years been arguing the merits of girls' schools, the examination league tables bring annual satisfaction. Nothing could more clearly show how successful single-sex schools are at educating girls than the tables published this week. But the results have been consistent since they first appeared. What is notable is that girls are now at the top in A levels as well as in GCSE.

Concern about girls' underachievement during the 1970s and 1980s was particularly focused on poor performance in maths and science. Now it has given way to worry about boys doing badly. What explanations can be offered for girls' academic dominance?

It was in the GCSE tables that girls' schools first had notable success. This year they won eight of the top ten places. It came as no surprise to those of us who have taught in girls' schools, but it seems to have astonished many. An explanation had to be sought, and was found, in the nature of the examination itself.

The change in examination methods which came with GCSE undoubtedly played to girls' strengths, and coursework particularly benefited those whose low self-confidence meant they did not do well under examination time-pressure. Many of the old generalisations hold. Girls are usually more effective at sustained effort, they do collaborate naturally, and their tendency to understate their achievements does provide a spur to hard work. But there is far more to it than this.

In the A-level tables published in *The Times* this year, girls' schools took six of the top ten places, with Withington and St Paul's Girls first and second. It looks as if the success established at GCSE is feeding through to A level, and the self-confidence of today's young women and their schools is justified by this and steadily increasing success in the employment market.

So marked and extraordinary is the dominance of single-sex schools in general, and girls' schools in particular, in examination league tables, that any government with any sense would be mounting a campaign to increase their number.

Girls in girls' schools do so well because the expectations of all concerned with them promote success. Their parents, in their choice of school, have put academic satisfaction and personal confidence firmly on the agenda; the staff set high standards, based on years of experience of what heights girls can achieve: learning with other girls provides appropriate challenge, shared goals and the absence of distraction by boys at the most vulnerable time in a girl's development. I am not only thinking about academic results, either. Perhaps equally important is the great sense of confidence which comes with taking leadership responsibility and sharing in a rich extracurricular life.

Much of this might apply to boys too. All observations in the mixed classroom indicate that it is the boys who dominate, sometimes even impeding the work of girl students. Experiments in single-sex setting over the past 20 years have been helpful to girls, especially in mathematics. The present concern about boys' achievements has led some schools to try single-sex setting over a wider range of subjects. The benefit to boys too is becoming apparent, especially in English. The league tables provide evidence of the success of single-sex education for boys.

Many of the schools that top the league tables, whether boys' or girls', state or independent, are selective and could be expected to do well. But this is not the only or even the principal explanation. Among the independent girls' schools which come high in the table are many which are not particularly selective, either because of location, or because high boarding fees make free selection difficult. Yet they achieve outstanding results. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that a crucial factor is single sex schooling. What about it, Mr Blunkett?

The author is a former Headmistress of the independent girls' school, South Hampstead High School.

THE TIMES DIARY

In hot water

DIANA, Princess of Wales, has been branded "utterly irresponsible" and accused of setting a bad example to the young with her recent cavortings in the Mediterranean with Dodi Fayed. She is in deep trouble for not wearing a lifejacket while racing about on a jet ski.

Bad example: Di and Dodi

The Princess and Dodi, on their third cruise in little over a month, have been zipping about off Sardinia on a jet ski made for two. But while Dodi was pictured in a buoyancy aid, Diana was wearing just her swimsuit and a pair of ungainly flippers. In a week when there have been calls to regulate the use of jet skis after the second fatal accident this year, the Personal Watercraft Association has gone into overdrive.

"Going out on a personal watercraft without a lifejacket is utterly irresponsible," froths Graham Stuart, the organisation's president. "We are really glad that the Princess and her family are keen personal watercraft users, but she really ought to wear a buoyancy aid at all times, if not for her own safety then as an example to others. These machines can go quite fast and if you fell off you could knock yourself out or get cramp and be in real trouble. Practically all riders in Britain wear a lifejacket, even on a supervised lake. We shall write to the Princess expressing our concern in the strongest terms."

Meanwhile, the photographs of the Princess and Dodi are being brought to the world by a team of waterbike couriers who relay the paparazzis' films back to the shore. I am assured they are all wearing life jackets.

Cliffhanger

AFTER more than two decades of waiting, the first chapters of Sir Edward Heath's memoirs will be seen by a publisher for the first time this weekend. The manuscript of an initial instalment was sent out to Hodder Headline yesterday and there is now genuine optimism that the *magnum opus* might finally be published next year.

Ever since he was forced out as leader in 1975, Sir Edward has been said to be writing his memoirs. There have been a number of false starts, culminating in him returning a £50,000 advance from Lord Weidenfeld. But friends say that with the Tory party enduring a period of soul-searching, the writer's block lifted and the Father of the House, who is 81, rumbled into action. "He has long sessions dictating to assistants," says a Heathite. "It's tiring for him and pretty intense for them."

Such a drag

BY the time Glenda Jackson arrives at work at the Department of Transport she has smoke coming out of her ears. Cigarettes are taboo in all but the odd specified cell at the ministry. Her boss, Gavin Strang, is particularly sensitive to smoke pollution which adds to the *frisson* that already exists in their working relationship. Jackson has thus taken to puffing heroically for the duration of her car journey to work in order to endure the day. Nevertheless, officials report that windows have been opened and fans switched on full power to enable the odd sly gasper.

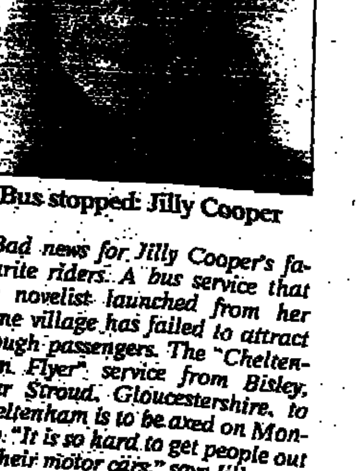
Lost a tenor

THE *sotto voce* whispers on the international opera circuit concern Placido Domingo and a production of Britten's *Peter Grimes* which was pencilled in for the Los Angeles Opera next year, to be directed by Britain's John Schlesinger, who made the film *Midnight Cowboy*. Now, sadly, one third of the three tenors is apparently no longer to tackle the part. "The lead role is one of the hardest a tenor can take on," says an insider. "It was specifically written for Britten's lover and is quite idiosyncratic." Like the great man himself.

An eye opener

WHILE cinemagoers flock to see Robert Carlyle smoulder and strip as a steelworker in *The Full Monty*, the film has provoked some eye-watering material on the Internet. A colleague stumbled across an unofficial Web site for the film from Foresight Europe Ltd.

The site has been inundated with pictures of readers' husbands, apparently all taken at the climax of auditions for the raunchier male dance troupes. By all accounts it is grisly stuff. "The response has been excellent," says a stunned-sounding designer at Foresight. "It's a miracle that people actually choose to do this."



Bus stopped: Jilly Cooper

● *Bad news for Jilly Cooper's favourite riders. A bus service that the novelist launched from her home village has failed to attract enough passengers. The "Cheltenham Flyer" service from Bisley, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, to Cheltenham is to be axed on Monday. "It is so hard to get people out of their motor cars," says Jilly, who likes to get stuck into community issues.*

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BATTLE FOR BRITAIN

Devolution will change the whole United Kingdom

It is the biggest constitutional change in the United Kingdom for a generation and the people of England have scarcely spoken yet. Their quiet concerns should be heeded now, for if they are not then they will find harsher expression soon enough. Devolution for Scotland and Wales is, as John Major rightly notes on the opposite page, a matter of profound importance for all the citizens of what is still the United Kingdom. The appetite for greater autonomy in Scotland and Wales is real and durable, the argument for better democratic scrutiny of administrative powers already devolved is well made, but devolution is far more than a matter of new buildings for Edinburgh and Cardiff. It will profoundly alter the architecture that holds together the British State. The changes proposed presage a new battle for Britain.

The armies, and arguments, are already being marshalled. Next month the think-tank *Demos* will launch a pamphlet to ride the referendum wave which attempts to grapple with the notion of "Britishness". The *Demos* pamphlet argues for a "re-branding" of Britain in line with the Prime Minister's professed desire to build a "young country". While an aversion to marketing jargon and high-falutin rhetoric is one defining mark of the British character, the packaging of the pamphlet should not obscure its content. It reiterates obvious truths. There are distinctive and contemporary British characteristics which owe something to the mongrel nature of the British State, and which make the United Kingdom more than the sum of its parts. The pamphlet identifies a particular global outlook, an innate adaptability, political maturity, creative energy and cultural pluralism as reasons for pride in Britain. The pamphlet is a welcome reproof to those who argue that the British nation state must shortly become one with Nineveh and Tyre.

It is in the interests of maintaining the integrity of the United Kingdom, Labour argues, that devolution is necessary. Not to accommodate Scotland's differences within the Union through a parliament would only encourage greater support for independence. The argument has sincere, and impressive, advocates in politicians of the stature of Donald Dewar and George Robertson, but many of their colleagues within the Labour Party share neither their analysis nor their scruples. Nationalist rhetoric has been adopted by Labour politicians to attack Tory Governments. Measures were opposed not on the basis that they were ideologically wrong, but on the grounds that Scots had not voted for them.

The poll tax is a case in point. The legislation was flawed in conception and executed insensitively, but many in Labour attacked it not as a measure offensive to egalitarian principles but one specifically objectionable to Scottish sentiment. This appropriation of *Braveheart* rhetoric was accompanied by a fainthearted approach to the nationalist challenge. It led the Scottish Labour Party to base its devolutionary scheme on a document, *The Claim of Right*, which seeks to accommodate nationalist arguments rather than take them on.

The positions struck by Labour in the past, and adopted now as it campaigns shoulder-to-shoulder with the Scottish National Party, inevitably provoke concern among those, of all parties, committed to keeping the kingdom united. That concern, it now appears, extends well beyond Scotland. In a poll of English voters for BBC *Radio Five Live* released last night, 57 per cent of those polled feared that devolution would damage the United Kingodm as a whole.

English voters do not need to be aware of all the strains which might be placed on the Union, outlined by Mr Major opposite, to sense that those in the vanguard of this scheme are not those known for their love of the British State. Labour has yet to show how it will prevent its parliament becoming a separatist ramp. When elections are held for an Edinburgh assembly, in the depths of Labour's mid-term, the main beneficiaries may be the nationalists. Would Labour in Scotland ally with the Tories to deny the nationalists power? Mr Blair must give all these matters serious thought if the young country he wants to create is not to prove two — a lesser England and a smaller Scotland.

VALIANT FOR TRUTH

A Japanese professor's courageous courtroom battle

Saburo Ienaga, the author of more than 40 distinguished historical works, is a Japanese historian so eminent that in ordinary circumstances his long career would by now have been crowned with domestic honours. Instead, mention of his name in official circles has, for 32 years, evoked distaste and embarrassment. The reason is his long and lonely crusade against the censorship by the Education Ministry of his school textbook accounts of Japan's wartime record.

Yesterday this now frail 83-year-old, who has shrugged off both ostracism and previous legal defeats, won his final battle. Japan's Supreme Court ruled that the ministry had acted unlawfully in ordering him to delete from a textbook all reference to Unit 731 in China's Harbin province, where Japanese military doctors performed lethal and appallingly cruel bacterial warfare experiments on live prisoners. Despite a wealth of evidence from survivors and from guilt-stricken Japanese, the ministry had ruled that the camp's very existence was supported by "no credible academic research".

For Mr Ienaga, the Supreme Court decision is a personal triumph, but only a partial victory. The court rejected seven other claims and, by sitting as a "petty bench" of only five of its full complement of 15 judges, declared itself unable to rule on his central charge that state censorship of the content of textbooks violates academic freedoms guaranteed under Japan's postwar Constitution. For Japan, the very fact that his legal odyssey has been necessary is a wrong that has yet to be properly addressed.

Mr Ienaga's campaign dates back to 1965, when the ministry's "certification council" ordered him to delete or rewrite more than 400 passages in the *New History of Japan* it had commissioned from him. Among the offending passages which, 32 years later, the court ruled the textbook examiners to have been justified in censoring were his account of the notorious Nanking atrocities by Japanese invading forces in 1937 and his use of words such as "raped" and "violated", to which the ministry objected on the ground that rape by soldiers was "a common occurrence in wartime". Happily, Mr Ienaga has had more success at the bar of public opinion than he has had in Japan's courts.

His courage and persistence have not only encouraged greater openness among teachers and academics in Japan, but have helped to make Japan's failure to face its past an issue throughout the region. An embarrassed Japanese Government has slowly revised Japanese textbooks, to give a more honest account of what happened. What was once described as Japan's "advance" into Asia is now termed "aggression", the Nanking massacre is acknowledged and, this year, children are being taught, although in brief and euphemistic language, about the Asian "comfort women" who were forced to provide sex in Imperial Army brothels.

Each step has, however, been bitterly contested by Japanese conservatives, who protest that Japan's children should be taught a history they can be proud of and that the Government is supine in bowing to foreign protests. Japan's political debate continues to reflect the enduring schizophrenia about the recent past in Japanese society, at once so pacifist and so proud. Mr Ienaga believes passionately that truth is the best healer of these wounds. His stand embodies all that is most civilised in his ancient nation.

MAGNIFICENT PREDATORS

Russia's attempts to save Siberian tigers deserve world support

The tiger has prowled this planet for more than two million years but these magnificent predators may not survive another century. It is estimated that fewer than 5,000 now remain. Already three species — the Bali, Caspian and Javan — are extinct. The Siberian tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*, could soon be joining them unless the conservation programme newly announced by the Russian Government can succeed in effecting far-reaching changes.

The snowbound forests of the Primorsky and Khabarovsk regions in Russia's remote east provide the last habitat for the Siberian tiger. But since the end of the Soviet Union, weakened authority and economic decline in these bleak territories have encouraged poaching. There is a lucrative market for tiger products in China and Korea, where they are used for traditional medicines. Tigers' bones are believed to heal ulcers and their brains are thought to remedy laziness and acne. A tiger carcass can command up to £10,000 on the Asian black market — far more than an annual Russian salary.

Wealthy hunters from Moscow and further afield are prepared to pay handsomely to bag a big cat. Telescopic rifles in hand, they scour the Siberian snows in helicopters. It is the pleasure of the kill they relish, but local mafia organisations control the cross-border trade in tiger carcasses — from Russian poacher via Russian customs officer to Chinese sellers and product-makers. For them this trade has become more profitable than peddling drugs. Bleakest estimates suggest that some 70 animals are killed every year. Furthermore, the plunder of the tigers' habitat by logging companies — several of them illegal — threatens not only the cats but the fauna on which they prey.

In 1995 the Russian Government set up a Siberian tiger sanctuary, but did not have the budget to maintain it. Foreign donors such as the World Wide Fund for Nature were relied upon to finance anti-poaching brigades and monitoring units to track the whereabouts of animals by radio-collaring. Populations have since increased — slowly.

The Russian Government now takes a welcome step in offering fresh funds for the preservation of this glorious species. To many it has seemed glib that developed Western nations, no longer harbouring fierce predators in the wild, should clamour for the protection of such animals in other countries. Democratic Russia's decision to initiate its own conservation programme will be applauded across the world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

National concerns over devolution

From Mr D. E. Ridler

Sir, A just and democratic way to resolve the debate on independent parliaments for Scotland and Wales would be to renegotiate the 1707 Treaty of Union and put forward proposals for a new treaty for the Scots, Northern Irish, Welsh and the English, to approve or not.

So far it appears to have been assumed, even by English MPs, that the English will accept any condition of membership of the "Union" which the Celtic members may demand, no matter how disadvantaged the English may be as a result. This is not necessarily the case. The English doubtless have a view and it should be heard. Just as the present conditions of membership of the Union may not suit the Celts, the present Government's proposals may not suit the English.

It may be that the English will want independence. They should be given the same chance to express their views.

Yours sincerely,
D. E. RIDLER,
9 Moor Green, Nunthorpe,
Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire.
August 25.

From Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle

Sir, The cavalier dismissal by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, of the views of Sir Bruce Pattullo, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, on the possible effect of tax increases by a Scottish parliament (report and leading article, August 23) appears to suggest that only professional politicians are qualified to express opinions on this very important matter. Such a suggestion is arrogant and unhelpful.

The electorate deserves to know what is involved before answering the second question in the referendum on tax-varying powers, and the views of someone with a lifelong experience of banking and business merit no less consideration than those of politicians lacking such experience.

Yours faithfully,
JAUNCEY of TULLICHETTLE,
Tullichettle, Comrie, Perthshire.
August 26.

From Mr Robin Dyke

Sir, If we were to have a referendum on abortion, would we expect it to be limited to female voters? Or should the future of blood sports be decided solely by those who participate? I think not. So why are opinions on Scottish questions not sought from the rest of Great Britain?

As your survey today clearly shows, there are many non-Scots who hold views on the subject. Those who voted one way may earnestly wish to stay united with the Scots, those who voted the other way may just want to be shot of them, but some 84 per cent seemed to want to have a say.

Much the same presumably applies to issues concerning Wales, and for that matter Northern Ireland or even Cornwall.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN DYKE,
Gore House,
Warborough, Oxfordshire.
robin_dyke@compuserve.com
August 29.

From Dr Tom Graves Smith

Sir, I am sure many English people, viewing events in Scotland with some anxiety, will agree with your position that *The Times* could only support Scottish devolution on the basis that it will strengthen the Union (leading article, August 23).

However, the doubtful issue as to whether or not Scottish devolution will indeed strengthen the Union is surely clarified when we consider that one of those in the best position to assess this, Mr Alex Salmond as Leader of the Scottish National Party, clearly thinks it will not.

Yours sincerely,
T. R. GRAVES SMITH,
25 Saxholm Way,
Southampton, Hampshire.
August 29.

Millennium Dome

From Mr A. P. Mason

Sir, We should cherish the Millennium Dome during its brief existence. Tacky, synthetic and impermanent, it is marvellously symbolic of much of today's Britain. The likelihood that most people are wholly uninterested in the millennium project — except for the gallant 95 per cent who, according to Jimmy Young, voted against it in a Radio 2 'phone-in on August 22 — merely adds to the authenticity of the picture.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MASON,
133 Harestone Valley Road,
Caterham, Surrey.
August 23.

Chinese puzzle

From Ms Geraldine Johnson

Sir, Mr Stephen Straker (letter, August 29) should not despair about the puzzle of the composition of his Chinese sandals. If he searches his inner soul, he will find the answer.

Yours faithfully,
GERALDINE JOHNSON,
Latchwood, Tye Close,
Saltdean, Brighton, East Sussex.
August 29.

Africa's future lies in its own hands

From the Director of Oxfam

Sir, Matthew Parris ("Out of Africa's horror", August 22; see also articles, August 8 and 15; letters, August 16 and 21) is right: "looking away" from the problems in Africa is "cruel". There has been too much looking away. But the kind of engagement he is suggesting — the recolonisation of parts of the continent — is not, and never was, the solution.

Africa has created many of its own problems through corruption and maladministration. But these have been compounded by international policies.

Many Africans would question whether colonialism ever ended. Following independence, a lot of countries, including Angola and Mozambique, became battlegrounds for a proxy war between East and West. The legacy of these wars continues throughout the continent, at the expense of African lives and livelihoods.

Since the 1970s, the IMF and the World Bank have imposed their economic solutions on numerous African countries. Enormous debt repayments and structural adjustment programmes have undermined basic services like health and education, without creating new growth. In Uganda, where one child in five dies before their fifth birthday, the Government spends $3 a person on health, $17 a person on debt repayments. Oxfam has consistently called for those debts to be written off. Africa has paid its debts many times over.

It is time the international community gave its backing to African solutions for Africa. For example, the Organisation of African Unity is working towards economic union in Africa by the year 2030. It is through regional economic integration that small landlocked countries such as Rwanda and Burundi can create viable national economies.

By supporting such initiatives and by removing trade barriers, rich countries not only help Africa towards genuine independence and prosperity, they also create a potential new marketplace for themselves.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BRYER,
Director,
Oxfam (United Kingdom
and Ireland),
274 Banbury Road, Oxford.
August 22.

From Mr Olu Fasan

Sir, For all his admittedly splendid analysis of Africa's problems, Mr Parris errs badly in failing to recognise the spirit of the African people and in discounting the determined efforts of their leaders to jettison the misguided policies of the past and embrace economic reforms, based on free enterprise. It is as if, in Mr Parris's cynical view, such efforts, coming from Africa, could only lead to a blind alley.

To hanker after the recolonisation of Africa, as Mr Parris seems to be doing, is an insult to all Africans and a blatant disregard for the principle of self-determination. To be sure, Africa has problems, not least bad leadership; but the solution lies not in the West taking over the continent as an administrator would an ailing company. Rather, it should be helping to promote good governance in Africa and to reduce corruption.

Is it not time to ask Swiss and other Western banks to name and shame African leaders who are hiding money in these banks which neither their salaries in office nor legitimate personal investments outside it could justify? Is it not time this money was returned to help develop Africa, or, if you like, pay off its debt?

Yours faithfully,
OLU FASAN
(Editor),
Marketfinder International,
272 Queens Road, SE14.
August 23.

Greenhouse gases

From Professor A. J. McMichael and Dr Mike Hulme

Sir, Without wishing to comment on the dispute between BP and Greenpeace (letters, August 25, 28), we would like to remind readers of the seriousness of the potential threat caused by our continued use of fossil fuels and the consequent accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The resulting environmental damage occurs both locally — as evidenced by the deterioration of air quality in UK cities in the past few weeks — and also globally.

As scientists studying the impacts of climate change, we consider that adverse effects on human populations are likely to result from changes in weather patterns, shifts in storm frequencies, rises in sea level, and the consequent spread of various pests and infectious diseases. A wide variety of ecosystems throughout the world will be at increasing risk.

We have little idea whether or not human societies can cope with such adverse effects. Hence, the prudent course of action is to limit the source of the problem.

Major shifts in investment away from fossil fuels will therefore be required to make the necessary reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Large companies like BP seem to us to be well placed to take an active part in investing in these changes.

There is no doubt that precautionary preventative action is needed now.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. McMICHAEL,
MIKE HULME
(Climatic Research Unit,
University of East Anglia),
London School of Hygiene and
Tropical Medicine,
University of London,
Keppel Street, WC1.

Sexism and cars

From Mrs Eunice Hinds

Sir, I agree with Mr David Mungall (letter, August 25) about the sexist assumptions in used-car adverts.

When I sold my Audi 80 I could have advertised "one lady owner" but thought it might not give an accurate impression of a car with 150,000 miles on the clock, which had travelled to the Czech Republic to organise a conference, done a daily 45 miles round-trip to my office, travelled to all corners of the British Isles with me on business, done the school run and been used to help my son learn to drive.

Then again, when my husband was selling his Rover, with 35,000 on the clock and only used locally to travel to work and do the shopping, "one gentleman owner" somehow did not seem to have the right connotations either.

Yours sincerely,
EUNICE HINDS,
321 Rayleigh Road,
Hutton, Brentwood, Essex.
August 25.

From Mrs Vivienne Apple

Sir, Having just traded in my one-lady-owner G-reg Metro for a one-lady-owner N-reg equivalent, I suspect that political correctness is being used as some kind of red herring in your letters column.

Not only is the low mileage and pristine condition of my "new" car attractive, but it also guarantees that the lady owner, like me, didn't use it as an ego booster, mobile rubbish bin or a rollercoaster in which to bounce over sleeping policemen at 40mph.

Does this make me a sexist, or a realist?

Yours faithfully,
VIV APPLE,
38 Harrow Road,
West Bridgford, Nottingham.
August 26.

From Mrs Linda Hiller

Sir, Some years ago, when part-exchanging my car, I suggested to the salesman that he advertise it as belonging to "one careful lady owner".

He replied that this was not possible as he would be in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Act.

I did not inquire if this alluded to "careful" or "lady". I still do not wish to know.

Yours faithfully,
LINDA HILLER,
239 Hullbridge Road,
South Woodham Ferrers,
Chelmsford, Essex.
August 25.

Hindley campaign

From Mr Alan Pavelin

Sir, In discussing the case of Myra Hindley, Mr Gerald Long (letter, August 25) both misrepresents Catholic teaching on confession and absolution, and fails to distinguish God's forgiveness from that of society.

It is most certainly not the case that "the most abominable criminal can be washed clean of his crimes ... by a brief ritual". The Catholic Church believes that a necessary condition of God's forgiveness is genuine repentance, which is a possibility for even the perpetrator of the most unspeakable wickedness. This does not necessarily mean that society should immediately release such a criminal, but nor does it mean that it should never do so.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN PAVELIN,
172 Leesons Hill,
Chislehurst, Kent.
August 25.

From Mrs Allison Walker-Morecroft

Sir, For one who abhors the arrogance of Lord Longford's campaign on behalf of Myra Hindley, Mr Gerald Long exhibits a fair amount in his letter. The "tiny minority" he mentions is, in fact, the whole Christian Church. The most heinous crimes are forgiven in the light of true repentance, if we are to believe the words of Jesus: "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him" (Luke xvii, 3).

Hindley's contrition, real or otherwise, is between her and Almighty God. Anyway, who decides who is a "lesser sinner"? Not Mr Long, surely.

Yours etc,
ALLISON WALKER-MORECROFT,
47 Colman Road, Norwich, Norfolk.
August 25.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Learning moralit from classical pas

From Mr John N. Davie

Sir, Lesley Chamberlain is to applauded for her article on the ne for clear moral teaching in scho and for finding in Socrates the id teacher of ethics ("A moral victory Socrates", August 25). We will nev know how much Plato idealises master in his dialogues, but it is ha not to be impressed by a man w argued, 400 years before Christ, th suffering injustice is preferable committing it.

Much of classical literature is ope ly didactic, from Homer and the t gedians to Terence and Livy, illu trating how men and women shou (and should not) live by the use moral exemplars. If one accepts th human nature changes little over t centuries, there is much for toda young people to learn from the clas cal past in the sphere of morals, par cularly during the early days of Roman Republic.

Modern pupils may find it bizar that a Roman general should ha returned to his enemies in Carthage face a lingering death simply becau he had given them his word; but does them no harm to ponder on it.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DAVIE
(Head of Classics),
St Paul's School,
10 Kinnaird Avenue, W4.
August 25.

From Ms Marianne Talbot

Sir, I am wholly supportive of Les Chamberlain's wish to use the Soc tic method to teach moral values young people and I wish her luck.

However, as the consultant charg by the School Curriculum and Asse ment Authority with carrying forwa the work of the National Forum Values in Education and the Comm nity, I would like to put right an in curacy in her account of the foru work. There is no sense whatsoever which that work is "paving the w for compulsory lessons" in moralit

The SCAA's guidance on which forum's work is based is designed help schools do their own thinki about how they wish to prom pupils' spiritual, moral, social a cultural development, to stimul ideas, trigger enthusiasm and disse inate existing good practice.

The forum's statement of values, from being relativist, demonstra once and for all that however plura our society there are still values which we all subscribe.

This will provide immense couragement to schools who, wh recognising and celebrating the ma differences between us, do not wan lose sight of the common human that makes these differences, in very important sense, irrelevant.

Yours faithfully,
MARIANNE TALBOT.
Brasenose College, Oxford.
August 25.

Aitch through the net

From Mr Benjamin Levy

Sir, There is something fishy ab the "Spell check" panel in your rep today, headed "Master wordsmi fail spelling test". Is your spelling "ichthyological" without the first ai a deliberate mistake, or is the wh article a cod?

Yours faithfully and orthographica
BENJAMIN LEVY,
Enterprise Chambers,
9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
August 29.

From Mr Francis Wood

Sir, Was today's spelling test a r herring?

Yours etc,
FRANCIS WOOD,
1 Bartlemy Road,
Newbury, Berkshire.
August 29.

Spelling it out

From the Consultant Editor of He lines

Sir, It is with great embarrassm that I note a glaring example of a m spelling in the pages of the curr issue of this magazine. I dictated ect to our printers over the telephon late story concerning a project inv ing, I was surprised to read sub quently, a first faze and a second fa

I feel somewhat phased by t experience.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK E. HARVEY,
Consultant Editor,
He lines,
Streamline Fashion Publishing Lt
6-8 Vestry Street, N1.
August 29.

Heavenly measures

From Canon Arnold Nicholas

Sir, In a report today headed "Gra robbed for garden ornaments" y include the intriguing informat that "one of Europe's largest ceme ies has lost six lifesized angels".

Just how big is a "lifesized angel

Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD NICHOLAS,
19 Roman Way,
Fishbourne,
Chichester, West Sussex.
August 26.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall, London, on Saturday, November 8 and will attend the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, at 11am the following day.

Lady Norreys gave birth to a son on August 26 in Gibraltar.

Helene Hanff

A memorial service for Helene Hanff (author of *84 Charing Cross Road*) will take place in St Paul's Church, Inigo Place (between Bedford Street and King Street), London WC2, at noon on Tuesday, September 16. All are welcome: for tickets please send a SAE to Aurum Press, 25 Bedford Avenue, London WC1B 3AT.

Professor Jack Perry

The 48 Group Club will be holding a memorial gathering for Jack Perry on Tuesday, September 9. The event will be held at Church House, Westminster between 10.30am and 1.00pm. Members of both Houses of Parliament, the Chinese Embassy, the British business community and many others will be present. Enquiries: 0161 833 0261/0171 493 4009.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Dr Barbara Ansell, rheumatologist, 74; Sir Harold Atcherley, former chairman, Toynbee Hall, 79; Lord Brain, 71; Sir Patrick Branigan, QC, former Attorney-General, Gold Coast, 91; Sir Charles Burman, former chairman, Tarmac, 89; Mr Allan Davis, theatre director, 84; Mr A.P. Dyer, former chief executive chairman, BOC, 65; Mr Daniel Finkelstein, director, Conservative Research Department, 35; Mr Kenneth Gill, trade unionist, 70; Dr A.B. Gilmour, former director, NSPCC, 69; Mr M.R. Harris, company director, 75; Lord Healey, CH, 80; Air Marshal Sir Frank Holroyd, 62; Lord Keith of Castleacre, 81; Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, former chairman, British Medical Association, 63; the Countess of Longford, 81; Miss Sue MacGregor, broadcaster, 56; Dr Peter North, FBA, Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University, 61; Sir Peter Parker, former chairman, British Railways Board, 73; Mr John Peel, broadcaster, 58; Sir Henry Phillips, former colonial administrator, 83; Mr Ian Prutton, inventor of the round tea bag, 50; Miss Pamela Stringer, former Headmistress, Clifton High School for Girls, 69; Professor J.M. Thoday, FRS, geneticist, 81; the Very Rev Professor T.F. Torrance, FBA, theologian, 84; Mr Sydney Wooderson, former athlete, 83; Sir Philip Woodfield, civil servant, 84; Miss Joan Woodgate, former matron-in-chief, QARNNS, 85.

TOMORROW:
Mr Eugene Anderson, former chairman and chief executive, Ferranti International, 59; His Honour Major Michael Argyle, QC, 82; M Serge Blanco, rugby player, 39; Admiral Sir Brian Brown, 63; Professor Robert Hanbury Brown, FRS, astronomer, 81; Sir James Cleminson, former chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, 76; Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden, 82; His Honour Alan de Piro, QC, 78; Miss Liz Forgan, former managing director, Network Radio BBC, 53; Sir William Francis, civil engineer, 71; Mr Richard Gere, actor, 48; Air Marshal Sir Edward Gordon Jones, 83; Professor Christine King, Vice-Chancellor, Staffordshire University, 53; Viscount Leathers, 56; Professor Brian Livesley, London University Professor in Care of the Elderly, 61; Mr Clive Lloyd, cricketer, 53; Professor Sir Bernard Lovell, FRS, former director, Jodrell Bank Experimental Station, 84; Mr Van Morrison, singer, 52; Mr Edwin Moses, athlete, 32; Mr Bryan Organ, painter, 62; Mr Itzhak Perlman, violinist, 52; Sir Barry Sheen, former High Court judge, 79; Mr Cyril Spencer, former chairman, Waring and Gillow, 73; Mr Clive Standen, Principal, British School of Osteopathy, 45.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Jacques-Louis David, painter, Paris, 1748; Sir John Rennie, civil engineer, London, 1794; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, London, 1797; Ernest Rutherford, Baron Rutherford of Nelson, physicist, Nobel laureate 1908, Spring Grove, New Zealand, 1871; Raymond Massey, actor, Toronto, 1896; John Gunther, journalist, Chicago, 1901.

DEATHS: Francis Baily, astronomer, London, 1844; Feargus O'Connor, Chartist leader, London, 1855; Sir John Ross, Arctic explorer, London, 1856; John Francis, sculptor, London, 1861; Georges Sorel, philosopher, Boulogne, 1922; Henri Barbusse, novelist, Moscow, 1935; Sir Joseph Thomson, physicist, Nobel laureate, 1906, Cambridge, 1940.

The first trams began running in Britain, operated by the Birkenhead Street Railway, 1860.

The vacuum cleaner was patented by the Scotsman Hubert Cecil Booth, 1901.

The evacuation to the country of children from British cities began, 1939.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Charles Lever, novelist, Dublin, 1806; Theophile Gautier, writer, Tarbes, France, 1811; Hermann von Helmholtz, scientist, Potsdam, Germany, 1821; Maria Montessori, educator, Chiravelle, Italy, 1870; Wilhelmina, Queen of The Netherlands 1890-1948, The Hague, 1880; Billy "Bombardier" Wells, British heavyweight boxing champion 1911-19, 1889; Fredric March, actor, Racine, Wisconsin, 1897.

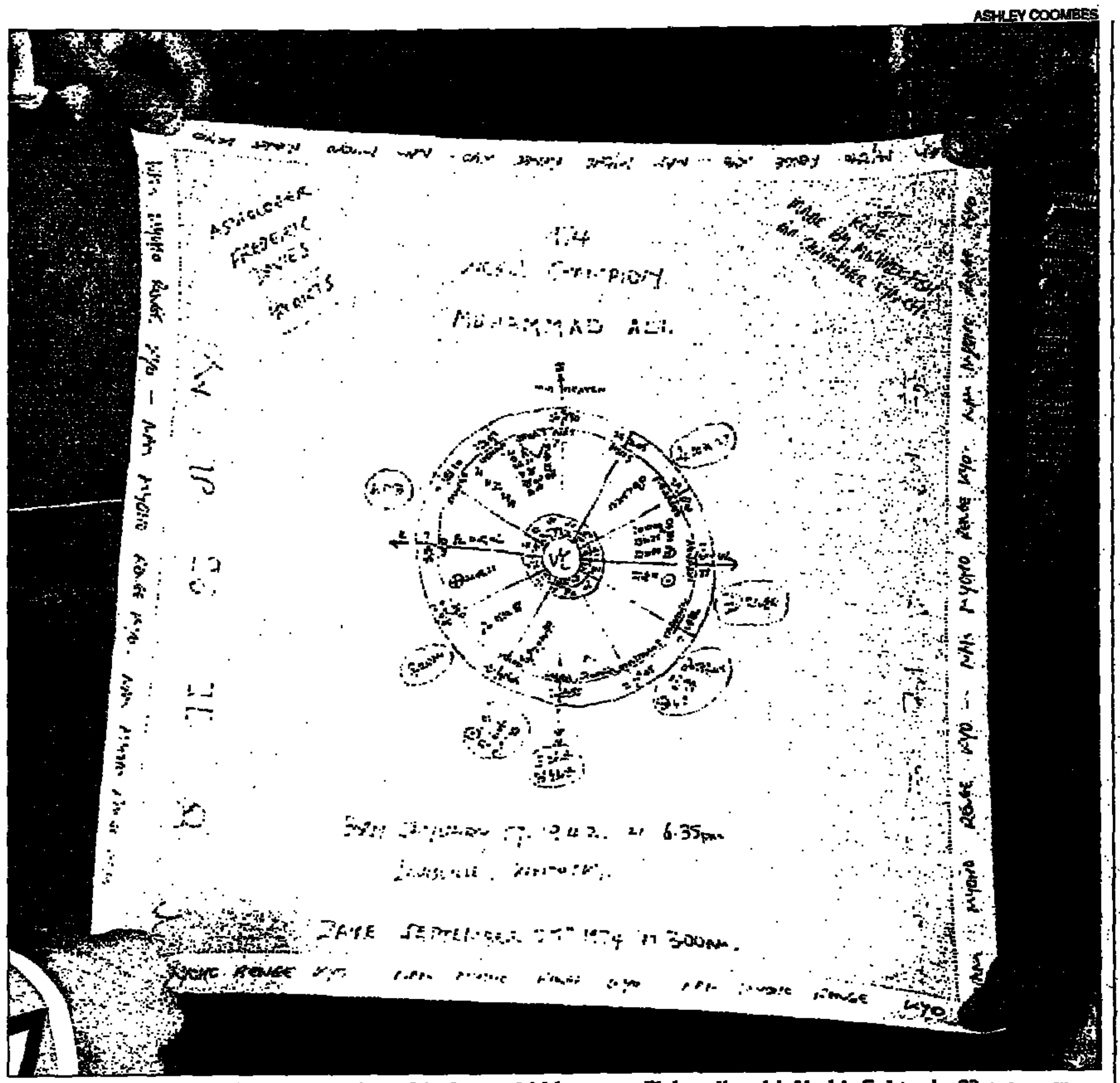
DEATHS: King Henry V, reigned 1413-22, Vincennes, France, 1422; John Bunyan, writer and preacher, London, 1688; Jon Keill, philosopher, Oxford, 1721; Arthur Phillip, 1st Governor of New South Wales, Bath, 1814; Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1867; Georges Braque, Cubist painter, Paris, 1963; Ilya Ehrenburg, novelist and poet, Moscow, 1967; John Ford, film director, California, 1973; Henry Moore, sculptor and painter, Hertfordshire, 1986; Urho Kekkonen, President of Finland 1956-82, Finland, 1986.

Mary Ann Nichols was murdered in Whitechapel, London, the first victim of Jack the Ripper, 1888.

Coca-Cola went on sale in Britain, 1900.

The Threepenny Opera, by Kurt Weill and Bertold Brecht, was first performed in Berlin, 1928.

Malaya achieved independence from Britain, 1957.



ASHLEY COOMBES

The astrological prediction that Ali would win was hidden on a silk handkerchief in his fight robe 23 years ago

Ali's boxing robe reveals its secret at last

By Adam Fresco

A PREDICTION from a famous American astrologer that Muhammad Ali would win his famous "Rumble in the Jungle" against George Foreman has been found sewn into the lining of his fight robe 23 years after the bout in Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The astrological birth chart was made by Frederic Davies, whose work featured in *Vogue* and British newspapers. Unknown to Ali it was put in the lining of his African-style robe by its designer, Michael Fish, before the October 1974 fight in Kinshasa.

Since the fight, which Ali won by a knockout in the eighth round to become world heavyweight champion again, the chart, sewn onto a silk handkerchief, has remained undetected.

It was only when Mr Fish saw on television during the week that Christie's were showing an exhibition of Ali memorabilia that he realised that inside the lining he could again see the chart. He and Mr Davies, who has since died, had decided to put it there without telling anyone else. He phoned Christie's and told the owner of the collection, Ronnie Paloger, where he could find the chart.

Yesterday Mr Fish met Mr Paloger and, for the first time since the fight, saw the chart and the robe, which is expected to fetch around £65,000. "I haven't mentioned it to anyone since the day it was placed in the robe. It is amazing to see it again," he said.

The collection of thousands of items, from pictures of Ali as a child, his boots, gumshields, robes and gloves to programmes and score cards, are being shown at Christie's over the weekend before going to New York and California where it will be sold in October.

Mr Paloger, who has been collecting Ali memorabilia since the early 1990s, said: "It is unbelievable."

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.J. Brown
and Miss P.M. Carville
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Graham and Sylvia Brown, of Shenfield, Essex, and Patricia, daughter of Neil and Pat Carville, of Crawley, West Sussex.

Mr A.W.A. Cameron
and Miss S.J. McLaughlin
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of the late Dr C.B. Cameron and of Mrs Cameron, of East Kennett, Wiltshire, and Sophie, elder daughter of Mr W.E. McLaughlin and Mrs S. McLaughlin, of London.

Mr S. Cotton
and Miss S. Garvey
The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Mr and Mrs Mike Cotton, of Ashow, Warwickshire, and Sylvie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Garvey, of Brussels, Belgium.

Mr A.J. Galbraith
and Miss J.M.L. Mullane
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs John Galbraith, of Broomley, Northumberland, and Juliette, daughter of Commander and Mrs Michael Mullane, of Raynes Park, London.

Mr J.A. Johnston
and Miss J.V. May
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.A. Johnston, of Truro, Cornwall, and Juliet, daughter of Mr and Mrs N.J. May, of Horsmonden, Kent.

Captain C.J. Parker
and Miss C.L. Worrall
The engagement is announced between Captain Christopher Parker, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Parker, of Cowplain, Hampshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Worrall, of Codsall Wood, Staffordshire.

Mr A.M.D. Rait
and Miss C.E. Duckett
The engagement is announced between Andrew Mark David, son of the late Mr and Mrs David Rait, and Catherine Emma, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs George Duckett, of Ufton Nervet, Berkshire.

Mr G.G. Shire
and Miss C. Eiden
The marriage will take place on Sunday, September 7, in Maryland, USA, between Gavin, younger son of Mr and Mrs Jeffery Shire, of London, and Catherine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Ed Eiden, of Alexandria, Virginia.

Mr C.J.A. Tugendhat
and Miss S.K. Skipwith
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Tugendhat, of Ashley Gardens, London, SW1, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Skipwith, of The Ridgeway, Watford.

Marriages

Major J.C. Campbell, RA
and Miss J.R. Wright
The marriage took place on Sunday, August 24, 1997, at the Church of St Andrew, Toddington, Gloucestershire, of Major Jonathan Campbell, elder son of Colonel and Mrs Malcolm Campbell, of Winchester, to Miss Julia Wright, daughter of Mr and Mrs Glyn Wright, of Toddington.

Mr P.C. Rennie
and Miss A.J. Small
The marriage took place quietly on Wednesday, August 13, 1997, at Paphos, Cyprus, between Mr Peter Charles Rennie and Miss Angela Jane Small.

A celebration of the marriage was held at the Long Lane Sports Club, Great Wyrley, West Midlands, on Saturday, August 23, 1997.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Keith White, formerly working with Crosslinks in Zimbabwe, to be Vicar, Ipswich St John the Baptist (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich).

The Rev Allan Woods, NSM, West Wycombe w Bledlow Ridge, Bradenham and Radnage (Oxford), to be NSM, Terriers, High Wycombe (same diocese).

Retirements and resignations
The Rev Gordon Bennet, Vicar, Walton le Soken (Chelmsford) to retire October 31.

The Rev Roger Blankley, Priest-in-Charge, Charmouth & Catherston Leweston (Salisbury) to retire September 30.

The Rev Nicholas Gosnell, Chaplain, St John's School, Leatherhead (Guildford) to resign on August 31.

Canon Eric Richards, Vicar, Wykeham and Hutton Buscel, and Archbishop's Adviser on Rural Affairs (York) to resign on October 8.

The Rev John Weyman, Vicar, Westcott (Guildford) to retire October 24.

Church services tomorrow

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch; 6.30 Ch E.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Responses (Morley), Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood), The Dean; 3.15 Ch E, Brewer in D, Laudate nomen domini (Tye).

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 Euch, Metrical Gloria (Woodlands)

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Darke in F, Ave verum (Mozart), Rev V Cory; 4 Ch E, Responses (Rose), Sumsion in G.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 M; 10.30 Euch, Four part mass (Byrd), When David heard (Tomkins), The Provost; 4 Ch E, Turn back O man (Gilbert).

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 11 Euch, Canon C J Colebrook; 3.30 E, Sumsion in G, I will lift up my eyes unto the hills (Walker).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Ave Maria (Parsons), Canon A Redfern; 3.30 Ch E, Bring us, O Lord (Harris), Responses (Shephard).

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), The grace of Christ (Painting), The Archbishop; 3.15 E, Responses (Leighton), Kelly in C; 6.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis in B flat (Mozart), Fantasia in F minor (Mozart); 3 EP.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Euch, Rev J Moody; 6 E, The Provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Williams in G minor, Rev T Barker; 11.30 Ch M, Responses (Tomkins), Te Deum (Weelkes), Canon M Rees; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Reading), Purcell in G minor; 6.30 ES, Canon M Rees.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Collegium regale (Howells), Bursalis Prebendary; 11 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), The Chancellor; 3.30 E, Murrill in E, Achieved is the glorious work (Haydn).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Canon Jeffrey; 11.15 S Euch, Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Canon Peirce; 6 E, Collegium regale (Howells), O Lord my God (S S Wesley).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 10.30 Euch, Collegium regale (Howells), O bone Jesu (Radcliffe), Canon B Baisley; 5 E, It was in that train (Ferguson), Responses (Tomkins).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Darke in E, Deliver me (Parsons), Rev R Parsons; 6 E, Responses (Radcliffe), Laudate Dominum (Sweelinck), Rev G Marshall.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Shephard), Britten in C, Canon P Kent; 11.15 HC, Missa brevis (Palestrina), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), Canon S Pedley; 3.30 E, Responses (Rose), Murrill in E, The Bishop.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ireland in C, Jubilate in F (Darke), Rev P Dawes; 3.45 E, Stanford in C, God is gone up (Croft).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch; 11.15 M, Responses (Bodley), Stanford in B flat, Canon K Parry; 3 E, Responses (Bodley), Stanford in G; 6.30 ES, My eyes for beauty pine (Howells), The Dean.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.15 Euch, Missa Euge Bone (Tye), The Dean; 3 E, God be in my head (Lund).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa brevis (Fibich), O saviour of the world (Goss), Canon Dr M Palmer; 11.15 M, Jubilate (Somervelle), Canon J Schofield; 6.30 E, Responses (Smith), Walmisley in D minor, Rev J Smith.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Darke in E, Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré), Rev C Oldroyd; 11.30 M, Britten in C, Sing joyfully unto God (Byrd).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, The King shall rejoice (Handel), The Precentor; 4 EP.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Jubilate in C (Britten), Rev D Tinsley; 3.30 E, Responses (Prince), Stanford in B flat.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 11.15 M; 3.45 E.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch; 3 Ch E; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8 Euch; 9 Euch; 11 S Euch, Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake (Farrant); 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Ayleward), Short Service (Byrd); 6.30 E, The Dean.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Canon A Radcliffe; 3.30 E.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Canon R Langley; 6 EP.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 M, Responses (Oxley); 6.30 S Euch, Mass of five melodies (Appleford), And didst thou travel light, dear Lord? (Shephard).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), The Archdeacon; 3.30 E, Collegium regale (Howells), Bring us, O Lord God (Harris), Canon B Baker.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 10.30 Euch, I hear the harps eternal (Parker), The Treasurer; 3.30 E, Give me Jesus (Fleming).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev P Jones; 6.30 E, The Provost.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11.30 M, Responses (Stewart), Te Deum in B flat (Stanford); 12.30 Euch; 5.30 E, Responses (Rose), Stanford in C, The Dean.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Responses (Smith), Here O my Lord, I see thee face to face (Whitlock); 10.30 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Van N Warren; 3.15 E, O Praise the Lord (Batten), Responses (Smith).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Missa Sancti Albani (Trant), Rev A Philip; 11.30 M, Responses (Ayleward), Stanford in B flat, Canon P Hardman; 3 E, Responses (Eaves), Collegium regale (Howells), Rev J Cavell.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 Ch E, Responses (Horton).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Darke in F, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), The Chancellor; 6 E, Responses (Shephard), Murrill in E, The Treasurer.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C, Canon R Gage; 11 S Euch, Canon R Gage.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Rev P G Walker; 11.30 M, View me, Lord (Lloyd); 3 E, Collegium regale (Howells), And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Preb A P Bannister.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Leighton), Britten in C, Canon D Hutt; 11.15 Euch, Missa brevis in F (Mozart), Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons), The Dean; 3 E, Magdalen Service (Leighton), Rev J Gaskell; 6.30 ES, Rev R Holloway.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Te Deum in A (Gray), Rev A K Walker; 11.30 S Euch, Be still, my soul (Ashfield); 3.30 St Woolos Service (Moore), Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Sumsion), Rev R Coggins.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch; 11.30 M; 4 E, Sumsion in G, Ex ore innocentium (Ireland), Rev Dr J Toy.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Darke in F, O taste and See (Vaughan Williams), Rev K Goulstone; 3.30 Ch E.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 MS; 10 MS, Missa Assumpta es Maria (Kyrie), Rev R Frazer; 11.30 MS, Sing joyfully (Byrd), Rev R Frazer; 6 St Giles' at Six; 8 ES, Rev D K Robertson.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, There is an old belief (Parry), St Nicholas Mass (Haydn), The Provost; 3.30 Ch E, Faire is the heaven (Harris).

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 HC; 6 Rev D Molyneaux.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Missa S Johannis de Deo (Haydn); 3.15 Ch E, Moeran in D, I know that my redeemer liveth (Handel).

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Ave Maria stella (Grieg), Splendore aeterna (Kyrie), Canon M Saward; 3.15 E, Noble in A minor, Spiritus Domini (Near), Rev J Cowling.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Rev R Tice; 6.30 Rev A Rider.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 I was glad (Sweelinck), Jesu dulcis memoria (Vittoria).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M, Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev I M Fraser; 6.30 E.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev R Thorpe; 11 MS, Mr J Jennings; 5 Informal Service, Mr E Parry; 7.30 Informal Service, Mr E Parry.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), O altitudo divitiarum (Guerrero) 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Amor Jesu dulcissime (Nanini).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC, Rev Dr L Griffiths; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30, Rev Dr P Graves.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Locus iste (Bruckner), The Rector; 6.30 E, This spiritual house (Brockless), Rubbra in A flat, The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch M & Euch, Jubilate (Watson), Darke in E, Canon J Oates; 6.30 Ch E, Responses (Ayleward), Walmsley in D minor, Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Ch Euch, I was glad (Parry), Coronation Mass (Mozart), Ven R Turner.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev C I MacLeod; 6.30 Rev C I MacLeod.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 9 Mass; 11 Sung Mass, Missa Doulce Memoire (de Rore), Absterge Domine (Tallis).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Mi-Mi (Ockeghem), Sicut cervus (Palestrina), Rev A Meldrum.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 C, Rev J Richardson; 6.30 EP, Rev M Okello.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 10.30 S Euch, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Rev C Kevill-Davies; 6.30 E, In pace (Blitheman), Rev C Kevill-Davies.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 C; 11 S Euch & Baptism, Merbecke, Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Mass in five parts (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Rev Dr P Bradshaw.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors to London Service; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev G Lee; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES, The Vicar.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (Grayston Ives), Fr S Young; 6 E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, New English Hymnal, Rev J Ovenden; 6 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa Simile est regnum caelorum (A Lobo), Jubilate Deo (Lassus), Prof J Caldwell.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Solo voice service, Rev R Holloway.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Ad Fugam (Palestrina), Ecce Sacerdos magnus (Victoria), Fr W P Keyes.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M; 6.30 E, The Lord is a man of war (Handel), Preb M McGowan.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 9 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn), Where thou reignest (Schubert), Rev R F Bushau.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, In Heav'n above (Grieg), Jubilate (Ebler), Rev P Bosher; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: No services during August — college leave.

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Peter said: "I now understand how true it is that God has no favourites, but that in every nation those who are god-fearing and do what is right are acceptable to him. Acts of the Apostles 10 : 34

BIRTHS

BIDDELL - On August 22nd, to Veronique and Adrian, a beautiful daughter, Maud Josephine, a sister to Camille and Lily.

CATON - On 27th August, to Jane (née Poswillo) and Bob, a son, Harry James, a brother for Lucy.

CHILCOTT - On June 13th 1997, to Elizabeth (née Hand) and Duncan, a son, Edward Arthur, a brother for Alice.

CONNOLLY - On 21st August 1997, to Claire (née Hargreaves) and John, a daughter, Josephine Charlotte, a sister for James.

FALSTRUP - On August 23rd in Los Angeles, to Carol-Anne and David, a son, Evan Frederik Wells, a brother for Christian.

HARRISON - On August 16th, to Peter and Theresa, a daughter, Kathleen Eleanor Louise "Katie", a sister for Michael.

HARRIS - On August 18th, to Jane (née Powell) and Grant, a daughter, Willa, a sister for Benedict and Hester.

JONAS - On 6th July 1997 at The John Radcliffe Hospital, to Caroline and Max, a daughter, Ella Catherine Anne, a cousin to Max, Hugo and Angus Brewer.

BIRTHS

MOORE - To Kate and Damon on 25th August, a son, Francis Thomas Constantine, brother to Gulliver and Dickon. (A grandson for J.Z. Young who died in July).

MURRAY - On 27th August, to Sara and Paul, a son, Oliver James Calvert.

PAYNE - On Friday 22nd August at St George's Hospital, to Alice (née Johnson) and Donald, a daughter, Isobel Cara.

REID - On August 8th in Lisbon, to Cristina and Roderick, a daughter, Matilde Dias Mackenzie, a sister for Tomás.

RENOUF - On 3rd August in Tours, France, to Elisabeth (née Clegg) and Julian, a son, Anthony Julian Alexander.

SHEPHERD-SMITH - On August 28th, to Susie (née Manning) and Matthew, a son, Harry Patrick.

SOOD - On August 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Hunt) and Arvinder, a daughter, Sophie Jane.

SUNNUCKS - On 12th July 1997, to Karen (née Ludgate) and Andrew, a daughter, Victoria Anne Borradaile, a sister for Emma.

TRASK - On 24th August, to Stephen and Jane (née Angus), a daughter, Katherine Emma, a sister for Elizabeth.

WARD - On 27th August at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, to Marilyn and Anthony, a daughter, Melissa Rose.

WHITE - On 26th August, to Serena (née Wells) and Simon, a son, Felix Frank Christopher.

MARRIAGES

EVERARD:DUNNING - On Friday 29th August in Winchester, Peter Everard and Stephanie Dunning, attended by their seven children.

HOGG:McBREARTY - The marriage took place on Saturday 23rd August 1997 at Chelsea Registry Office between Mr Edward Hogg, son of Mr and Mrs J. Hogg and Miss Joanna McBrearty, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. McBrearty.

ANNIVERSARIES

EVANS - Happy Anniversary Paul and Jacqui, love Marc and Angela. Looking forward to March!

JOYNES - Darling Gary, On our first Anniversary on 31st August 1997, remembering the happiest day of our lives! With all my love always, your loving wife Karen x x x

MITCHELL - Ken and Ruth. On your first year of marriage, love and congratulations, Bridget and Stewart.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

HAWKSWORTH:FORD - Gerald to June Northampton 30th August 1947. Now at West Moors, Dorset.

DEATHS

ASHCROFT - Nan Suttie, specialist in wine artefacts, recently of The Hugh Johnson Collection, St James's, London, youngest daughter of John and Jessie Kennedy of Greenock, Scotland, died peacefully at The Royal Marsden Hospital, London, on August 25th 1997 aged 67. Beloved mother of Anne, grandmother of Duncan, dearly loved by Dick, her sisters, Myra, Margaret and Jessie and her dear friends. A service will be held at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday 3rd of September at 1 pm. Donations, if desired, to The Royal Marsden Hospital, London, in lieu of flowers.

BEST - Giles Barnard of Little Bredy, Dorset, peacefully on 27th August, aged 71. Dearly loved brother, uncle and godfather and good friend to multitudes of young and old. Funeral for close family and village at Little Bredy. A Service of Thanksgiving will be announced later.

DEATHS

CUBITT - Rachel, of Hanging Langford, Wiltshire, on 27th August 1997. Funeral enquiries to Will Case & Partners, tel: (01722) 414521.

DAVIES - Frederick William (Fred), aged 90, in Canada on August 21st 1997. Loved husband of Joan, father of Jim, John, Rolann and Susan and grandfather of Sarah, Matthew, Peter, Alexandra, Anna and Theo. Fred Davies was founder, in 1956, of the York Trailer Co. Ltd. Funeral was in Canada on August 29th. Memorial service to be held later in the year.

ENZIG - Eileen Ruth, much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, peacefully at her home on 26th August 1997 aged 93. Surrey and Sussex Crematorium 3 pm 2nd September 1997.

FREWIN - Leslie, Author and Publisher, left us all bereft when, with dignity and unexpectedly, he died at 5.20 pm on 27th August 1997. A great shock to us all who loved him very much. The Frewin Family.

GREENLEAF - On 27th August 1997 Meyrick died peacefully in hospital. He was greatly loved as husband, father, brother and friend to Maggie, Annabel, Tuggy and Vern. Funeral 3rd September 3.15 pm, Streatham Park Cemetery. No flowers, but donations if wished to R.N.L.I., 20 Buckingham Street, WC2.

KNOTT - Ronald Thomas (retired Major) passed away peacefully on August 27th 1997 at Kidderminster General Hospital. Funeral Service to be held on Friday September 5th 1997 at Worcester Crematorium at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation c/o J.N. Butler Ltd. (01299) 822069.

LEES - Jill Margaret Scrivener, peacefully on August 27th, beloved wife of the late Harry and mother of William, Nicholas and Charles. Funeral at Northampton Crematorium on Thursday 4th September at 2.30 pm. No flowers please but donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation.

LEMON - On August 28th 1997 Enid Fanny at Allblasters Nursing Home aged 91 years. Much loved aunt of John, Richard and Charles. Cremation at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth, on Tuesday 9th September at 2 pm. Enquiries to Freeman Brothers, (01403) 254690.

PARTRIDGE - On 24th August, Michael Harry, late of Gadbrook House, Betchworth, peacefully after a long illness. Private cremation. No flowers by request. Donations if desired to Royal British Legion c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1SD. Memorial Service to be held at noon, 11th September, Brockham Church, Surrey.

ROGERSON - Violet Mabel. To my aunts many friends in England I am sorry to advise Vi passed away in her sleep 28th August 1997. Ian and Barbara Affleck, Canberra, Australia 0061 6231 8411

SHERMAN - Barrie David, in London on August 28th 1997, died after a short illness. Much loved father of Matthew, husband of Anne and son of Sir Lou and Lady Sally Sherman. Funeral Service on Wednesday September 3rd at 1.30 pm at St Marylebone Crematorium. No flowers please, but donations for the British Heart Foundation may be sent to Leverton & Sons, Funeral Directors, 212 Eversholt Street, NW1 1BD.

SPURRIER - Tristan Charles on August 27th aged 20, from cancer. Beloved son of Chris and Paula and brother to Edward. No letters please. Funeral to take place at 2.30pm, Tuesday 2nd September at St Mary's Church, Eversley. Simple cut flowers only, or donations to Sargeant Cancer Care for Children, 14 Abingdon Road, London W8 6AS.

VEYSEY - Arthur Ernest. On 25th August, peacefully at Whangarei, New Zealand. War correspondent for the Chicago Tribune in the Pacific and foreign correspondent in London; author and traveller. Beloved husband of Gwendolyn (née Morgan); adored father of Priscilla; grandfather to Jeannie, Isobel and Laura; great-grandfather to James, Caroline and Caitlin. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

STUART - Sqdn. Ldr. (Pilot) Antony Charles [illegible] Akroyd R.A.F. (V.X.) 76 Sqdn. Age 26. Son of Charles Henry Akroyd Stuart and Helena A. Stuart B.A., Trinity (Oxon). Laid to rest at [illegible], Holland - never forgotten by his great friend Garth.

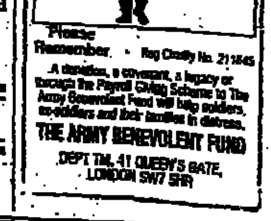
IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

PREECE - George Thomas remembered 30/8/97. Born Kew 13/11/15. Died Devizes 30/8/96. In our hearts - always there. D.

WALEY - Hendelah. Remembered with love, Mummy, Daddy, James and Philip.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS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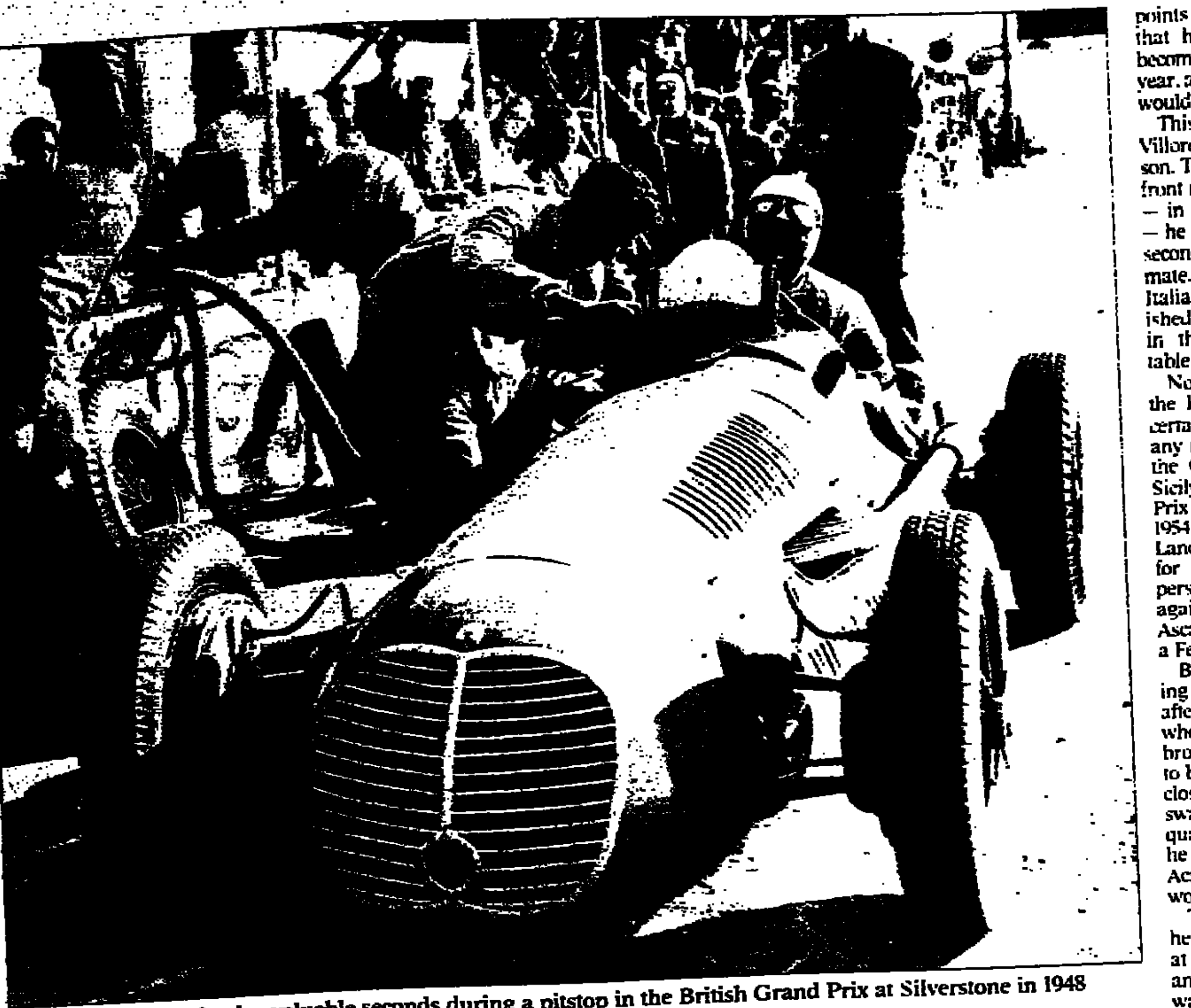
OBITUARIES

LUIGI VILLORESI


Luigi Villoresi gains valuable seconds during a pitstop in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in 1948

Luigi Villoresi, Italian racing driver, died at Modena on August 24 aged 88. He was born in Milan on May 16, 1909.

With the death of "Gigi" Villoresi, Italy has lost one of the last of its racing drivers whose career spanned the prewar and postwar years at the highest level of the sport. He began driving competitively in 1931 with a Fiat. But it was with a series of Maseratis, the marque to which he turned in 1936, that he quickly established a reputation as a dashing and highly versatile, if occasionally somewhat accident-prone, driver.

By the following year, he had graduated to the Maserati Grand Prix team, and he became Italian champion in the 1.5-litre class in both 1938 and 1939. But the latter year brought personal tragedy with the death in an accident at Monza of his brother Emilio, whose racing career had been so closely interwoven with his own, even though by then they were driving for rival teams.

A prisoner of war of the Allies during the Second World War, Villoresi returned to the racetracks in 1946. Still driving Maseratis, he was soon recording victories in Grand Prix races across Europe at Nice, Strasbourg, Nimes and in Alsace and Luxembourg. He also ventured across the Atlantic to take part in the famous Indianapolis 500 race, in which he finished seventh, and in both 1947 and 1948 he dominated a series of races in Argentina, winning the Perón Cup in both years.

Back in Europe, he continued to build his busy competition schedule around Formula One, Formula Two and sportscar racing. He underpinned his reputation for speed with a growing maturity and recorded many victories against formidable opposition. In the first Grand Prix to be held at Silverstone, in 1948, he finished ahead of his close friend Alberto Ascari, who was by then his Maserati team-mate.

By 1950, the inaugural year of the FIA World Championship, the two had joined the Ferrari team, where Villoresi comfortably slipped into the role of elder-statesman driver — someone who was still competitive, yet who went out of his way to offer the benefit of his wealth of experience to his younger and by now significantly quicker team-mate.

In 1951 Villoresi scored three third places in world championship Grands Prix in Britain, Belgium and France to finish the season fifth in the championship table, while Ascari was narrowly beaten by Juan Manuel Fangio to the world title. Although a lean 1952 season, which brought just two third places, gave Villoresi only a modest seventh place in the Formula One points table, he was overjoyed that his protégé Ascari had become world champion that year, an achievement the latter would repeat in 1953.

This was also to be Villoresi's best postwar season. Twice he started from the front row of the grid and twice — in Argentina and Belgium — he finished a Grand Prix in second place behind his team-mate. He was also third in the Italian Grand Prix and finished the season in fifth place in the world championship table.

Not that Villoresi had lost the knack of winning races, certainly not in sportscars at any rate. In 1953 he won both the Giro de Sicilia (Tour of Sicily) and the Monza Grand Prix for sportscars, and in 1954, having changed teams to Lancia, he won the Oporto GP for sportscars. But in 1955, personal tragedy struck him again when his great friend Ascari was killed while testing a Ferrari sportscar at Monza.

By now Villoresi's own racing career was in decline, and after a severe accident in Italy, when he suffered a badly broken leg, he was encouraged to bring his racing career to a close. However, as a fitting swansong to a remarkable quarter-century of motorsport, he took part in the 1958 Acropolis rally in a Lancia and won the event outright.

Thereafter, for many years he remained a familiar figure at major racing events in Italy and elsewhere in Europe. He was invariably greeted with warmth both by his surviving contemporaries and by the younger generation of drivers to whom his name remains an indelible part of Italian motor racing history.

He did not marry, and in his old age was cared for in a local monastery at Modena.

DAME BERYL PASTON BROWN

Beryl Paston Brown, DBE, educationist, died on July 25 aged 88. She was born on March 7, 1909.

HAVING taken a first in English and later taught at her old Cambridge college, Beryl Paston Brown could have made a wholly academic career for herself, but instead she devoted much of her life to the training of teachers.

After taking her degree, and a Teacher's Diploma from London, she accepted a lectureship at Portsmouth College of Education in 1933, before moving in 1937 to a more senior post at Goldsmiths' College, London, where she remained during the war.

In 1944 she moved to Newnham for two years, but in 1946 she returned to Goldsmiths', at a time when much new thinking and planning were being devoted to the education and training of teachers. This, she was convinced, was the aspect of education most urgently in need of rebuilding.

Paston Brown very soon became actively involved in a new professional body, the Association of Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education, and became the first editor of its journal, *Education for Teaching*. None of her friends was surprised when she was appointed to be Principal of the new City of Leicester College of Education in 1952; nor in 1961 when she was appointed Principal of Homerton College (of Education), Cambridge.

In 1963 she sat on the Newsom committee, which produced the report *Half Our Future*, which recommended that the school-leaving age be raised from 15 to 16. As a socialist, she believed in educational equality, and was concerned with provision for the least able children. Secondary modern schools should, she urged, be allocated a fair share of educational spending, and employ the best possible teachers. In later years she was disappointed that children with less ability were never given adequate priority, though encouraged to find the profession had become almost entirely a graduate preserve.

As part of the 1965 Weaver study group on the way colleges of education were governed, her understanding of collegiate organisation and her capacity for defusing possible disputes made a significant contribution.

In 1965 she was elected to chair the Association of Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education, and in 1967 she was appointed DBE. In her last few years at Homerton, much of her time was spent in informal explorations with senior Cambridge figures on the future relationship between Homerton and the university, and links were strengthened as a result.

She was always warm and responsive to others, and wore her considerable learning lightly. She listened intently to what others were saying, and had a ready sense of humour.

In 1971 she retired to her house at Lewes. Here she was soon as active as ever: as a tutor for the Open University (which awarded her an honorary degree); as a regular visitor to the Aldeburgh Festival and to Glyndebourne; and on the committees of public bodies such as Age Concern. Her last years were sad as she became more and more disabled by successive strokes.

ROB PARKER

Rob Parker, cave diver, rock climber and adventure sports cameraman, died on August 17 aged 35 in a diving accident in the Bahamas. He was born on June 10, 1962.

FEW SPORTS are more fraught with danger than diving into current-swept caves beneath a tropical seabed. Yet Rob Parker approached the dangers of this adventurous activity with meticulous care, driven by his passion for exploring unknown territory. For cave diving enthusiasts, exploring the earth's inner spaces is the mirror image of attempting the highest summits in the Himalayas. Parker also felt the excitement of visiting places never seen before, some containing undisturbed traces of unknown prehistoric lifeforms.

Parker was among the leading scuba-divers who adapted their apparatus to investigate flooded cave systems. He broke the record for the deepest cave dive in Britain when in 1985 he reached a depth of 63 metres in the flooded passages of Wookey Hole beneath the Mendip Hills of Somerset. He overcame the limitations inherent in conventional compressed air equipment by adopting a mixed gas system using oxygen, helium and nitrogen, which allows divers to remain at greater depths for longer.

In the early 1980s, Parker had joined a British expedition to the Blue Holes of Andros in the Bahamas, where Martyn Farr, a fellow diver from Llangynidr, Powys, set a world record for underwater cave exploration. Parker had earlier supported Farr's cave diving expeditions down Wookey Hole.

In 1984 he joined the leading American cave diver Bill Stone in Mexico, and the following year Stone gave technical advice and support when Parker made his explorations on mixed gas to the far reaches of the Wookey Hole cave system. The expedition was typical of Parker's careful organisation, with underground camps and caches of equipment being established close to the point from which the final push would be made.

Now an acknowledged master of the techniques, he returned to Andros, where he played an important part in the further exploration of the Blue Holes. There were other expeditions to China and to Wakulla Springs in Florida, where with Stone and a team of other Americans he explored one of the world's deepest and largest underwater caves.

Parker's background and experience helped to take the sport a stage further, and he helped with the design of a diving bell in which divers could decompress in comfort and safety. The expedition also employed underwater scooters for rapid transport. Parker planned to return to Wakulla Springs later this year as a lead diver in further explorations.

Parker was also a pioneer in bringing cave diving to the television screen. At the time of his fatal accident, he was working as an underwater cameraman on a film for German television about an unexplored cave. The film was to have commemorated his long friendship with Rob Palmer, a leading British cave diver and writer who died in another diving accident in the Bahamas earlier this year.

Robert Bernard Parker grew up and went to school in Hampshire, becoming a carpenter by trade. As a teenager he took up rock climbing, his first adventure sport, on the coastal cliffs at Swanage. He maintained this interest throughout his life, and was co-director and founder of the Bristol Climbing Centre.

He was separated from his wife. They had no children.

BRANDON TARTIKOFF

Brandon Tartikoff, American television executive, died in Los Angeles from Hodgkin's disease on August 20 aged 48. He was born in New York on January 13, 1949.

BRANDON TARTIKOFF was once described as the Great Gatsby of American television. Wealthy and self-assured, ambitious and successful, he was considered one of the cleverest schedulers in the history of the medium. In his 12 years as president of NBC Entertainment, he lifted the network from the ratings basement to first place.

The programmes that Tartikoff acquired and promoted at NBC read like a list of the greatest hits of the past decade. *Hill Street Blues*, *The Cosby Show*, *Miami Vice*, *St Elsewhere*, *Cheers* and *Family Ties* all bore the Tartikoff imprint. In a story that has since entered television folklore, it was during a 1980s meeting with the producer Anthony Yerkovich that Tartikoff scribbled the two words "MTV cops" on a napkin. That show became *Miami Vice*, the cornerstone of the NBC network's resurrection.

As a child growing up in New York, Brandon Tartikoff did not merely watch television: he studied it. He often feigned illness to stay at home and watch, and as a ten-year-old he informed his parents that the lead character in the show *Dennis the Menace* was miscast.

As a student of Robert Penn Warren at Yale University, Tartikoff once commented that a story by D. H. Lawrence needed a stronger plot. Penn Warren sardonically suggested that Tartikoff was cut out for a career in television.

On graduation, he took Penn Warren at his word, joining a station in Chicago owned by the American Broadcasting Company. Rapidly winning a reputation as a genius at scheduling, he did wonders for the ratings of their late-afternoon movies by packaging them around a theme.

It was Tartikoff who put together a series of horror films to run together as "Not for the Weak Week," and *King Kong* and other ape legends as "Thrilla Gorilla Week". The cheeky gamble paid off handsomely, bringing him to the attention of NBC in 1977.

NBC's scheduling at that time was the laughing stock of the industry. When the network's boss, Fred Silverman, appointed Tartikoff head of programming in 1980 at the tender age of 30, NBC's critics viewed it as very much a last throw of the dice.

Tartikoff quickly showed his grasp of popular taste. Backing a hunch that family-style sitcoms were due for a comeback, he approached the comic Bill Cosby about joining the network, then championed a second sitcom about ageing hippies and their conservative children called *Family Ties*. In his first year at NBC, Tartikoff also introduced *Hill Street Blues*, *The Cosby Show*, *Knight Rider*, *The A-Team*, *LA. Law*, *The Golden Girls*, and *St Elsewhere*.

By 1985 the network was able to claim the number one position in the ratings for the first time in 30 years. By the end of the decade NBC made history by finishing in first place 68 weeks in succession.

But for all Tartikoff's success as a broadcasting executive, his private life was repeatedly threatened by battles with Hodgkin's disease. The cancer was first diagnosed during a routine examination when he was only 25, and though he underwent a series of gruelling radiation treatments, Tartikoff never missed a day's work. At one point in 1982, in the midst of radiation treatments, he attended a meeting of NBC affiliates, presenting his new schedules wearing a wig and false eyebrows taped on to his forehead.

In 1991 Tartikoff suffered a further health setback after a serious motor accident, in which his eight-year-old daughter was even more gravely injured than he was. In the wake of the accident, Tartikoff left NBC to reappraise his life. The only logical step up the entertainment ladder appeared to lie in the movie industry, and later that year he joined Paramount Pictures as chairman.

He did not make a smooth transition to the the world of the cinema — he said he was puzzled by the obsession with box-office grosses — and concern for the welfare of his daughter drove him out of Paramount in 1992, a decision that stunned Hollywood and saw the company's stock price drop sharply on Wall Street on the day of the announcement.

Subsequently he established himself as an independent producer, working for New World Entertainment, and a company he himself created called H. Beale, named for the character of Howard Beale in the movie *Network*.

He is survived by his wife, Lilly, and two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
CLASSIFIED
0171 481 4000

ON THIS DAY

August 30, 1859

Befriended by literary giants in this country, Leigh Hunt founded the periodical, the Examiner. *It became fashionable, but at a price for its editor.*

OBITUARY.

MR LEIGH HUNT.

The character of Leigh Hunt's writings is very varied. As an essayist he had occasionally flashes of that odd humour which in Charles Lamb's writings is so irresistible and unique, but their prevailing characteristic was a delicate sensitiveness of thought which seemed sometimes carried to excess. To readers who love bold positive dogmas Leigh Hunt seemed always too considerate, too capable of seeing many sides of a question; but the peculiarity was evidently the result of very widespread sympathies, and a thorough conscientiousness in literary expression. Those who knew him personally also recognized in his writings the natural gentleness and "charity that thinketh no evil" which marked him as a man, and this tendency weakens the force of expresion in many of his written opinions. It gave to hasty observers an impression prejudicial to his manliness, but Leigh Hunt proved his moral courage more decisively than by denunciation of opinions adverse to his own. In days when Liberal opinions were dangerous he expressed them firmly and fearlessly, and he suffered with calm constancy an imprisonment which a slight submission could have easily evaded. His father was a West Indian, and his mother a Philadelphian; but at the period of the American Revolution his father took the British side in politics, and manifested his loyalty to the Crown so warmly that he was forced to fly to England ... Leigh became in 1808 founder and joint proprietor of the *Examiner*. This journal he edited for many years, and rendered exceedingly popular. Some remarks, directed against the practice of flogging in the army, became the subject of a prosecution. He was acquitted, but this was not to be the last of the Hunts' appearances in the law courts. A fashionable newspaper having called the Prince Regent an Adonis, Leigh Hunt, in a fit of indignation at the Regent's having broken his promise to the Whigs, added — "of fifty". The prince's vanity triumphed over his discretion and on the pretended ground of some words of more serious import a third prosecution was instituted. The jury upon this occasion found a verdict of guilty against Leigh Hunt and his brother John, and each was sentenced to pay a fine of 500*l*. and to suffer two years' imprisonment. Offers not to press the penalties were made on condition that no similar attacks should appear, but were with constancy rejected ...

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

NEWS

Girls' school shatters GCSE record

■ *Eighty pupils from St Paul's Girls' School in London have* produced Britain's best exam performance, smashing GCSE records as girls again swept the board in *The Times* league table *of state* and independent schools.

Some 95 per cent of St Paul's Girls' entries were awarded an A* or A grade .... **Pages 1, 8**

Heathrow jets 'seconds from collision'

■ Two passenger jets with nearly 200 people on board came within 200ft of a mid-air collision over Slough this week in one of the most serious "air miss" incidents reported in British airspace. Catastrophe was averted at the last second when one pilot was ordered to pull to the left .... **Page 1**

Refugee aid

The Government will announce a substantial aid package for Antigua to help it to cope with refugees from Montserrat .... **Pages 1, 12, 13**

Sinn Fein invitation

Sinn Fein was invited by the Government to peace talks for the first time since Ireland's 1921 partition, but Ulster Unionist reaction left its participation in doubt .... **Page 1**

Health alert

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, ordered the NHS to plan now to avoid a winter crisis ...... **Page 2**

Birth breakthrough

A 37-year-old widow of three years is the first woman in Britain to give birth to her dead husband's *child using a revolutionary fertility* treatment .... **Page 4**

Nineties' Tarzan

Tarzan has become a New Man. Political correctness has caught up with his jungle paradise in a new film .... **Page 5**

St Hilda's 'safe'

The uncertain future of St Hilda's, the last all-women Oxford college, looked more secure .... **Page 9**

Catholic tastes

The Roman Catholic Church could be on the threshold of a worldwide renaissance, according to new statistics .... **Page 10**

Tourists jailed

Two British women who admitted burglary in Cyprus were jailed for four months .... **Page 11**

Indonesia 'troika'

Britain is suggesting a EU "troika" carry out a fact-finding mission to try to end the deadlock over Indonesia's illegal occupation of East Timor .... **Page 15**

History lesson

Japanese pupils will learn about a horrific war crime after the Supreme Court said government censorship of textbooks was illegal .... **Page 16**

Berlin finds room for forgiven Dietrich

■ Marlene Dietrich, the vamp in *The Blue Angel*, has been forgiven in Germany after controversy over her wartime support for the Allies. A Berlin district council has backed using her *name for part of the new Potsdamer Platz* .... **Page 1**

ANDY METTLER / REUTERS

Snow on a Fluela pass hotel table marks an early end to summer in the Swiss Alps, where temperatures have fallen from 30C to 15C

OPINION

Battle for Britain: Devolution will profoundly alter the architecture that holds together the British State .... **Page 21**

Valiant for truth: Saburo Ienaga, author of more than 40 distinguished historical works, has waged a long and lonely legal crusade against censorship by Japan's Education Ministry .... **Page 21**

LETTERS

National concerns over devolution; Africa's future; learning morality from classical past; sexism and cars; Hindley campaign .... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

John Major: The Scots and Welsh should reject Labour's devolution plans ...... **Page 20**

Simon Jenkins: Jeffrey Bernard has withdrawn from kidney dialysis, asking for the right to die with dignity .... **Page 20**

Averil Burgess: The glory of girl power: why single sex schools are top of the class .... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Luigi Villoresi, racing driver; **Dame Beryl Paston Brown**, educationist; **Rob Parker**, cave diver ... **Page 23**

BUSINESS

Drinks merger: Karel van Miert, European competion commissioner, is concerned about the Guinness/Grand Metropolitan proposed merger .... **Page 25**

BTR: The conglomerate revealed that its next chairman will be Robert Bauman, the chairman of British Aerospace .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 27.9 points to close at 4817.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 101.5 to 102.2 after a rise from $1.6147 to $1.6215 and from DM2.9003 to DM2.9203 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: Michael Atherton's decision to stay England captain came after a talk with David Graveney **Pages 48, 40**

Football: England manager Glenn Hoddle has defended Ian Wright, in the squad for the World Cup qualifying tie against Moldova ...... **Page 48**

Golf: *Padraig Harrington* challenged for a Ryder Cup place .... **Page 42**

CARS

High time: Getting set for Peking to Paris, the world's toughest rally .... **Pages 1, 3**

ARTS

Velvet voice: Salena Jones has been wowing the Japanese for 20 years with her sultry jazz. Now she is back in Britain .... **Page 18**

Master works: Leipzig played a *key role in two* Proms concerts .... **Page 18**

Classic win: "One of the world's great broadcasting success stories" — Richard Morrison on Classic FM .... **Page 19**

Still nasty: David Rabe's *Hurlyburly* has moved to the West End, but its venom is intact, says Benedict Nightingale .... **Page 19**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Body of work: Herb Ritts's athletes .... **Page 24**
New road: Bill Pullman branches out .... **Page 8**
Food and drink: .. **Page 39**

Weekend

Farm freaks: Being cruel to feed mankind .... **Page 1**

Under wraps: Trousers with dresses .... **Page 3**
Mystery cellar: £5m-plus wine auction .... **Page 10**

10 15

Smart cookie: Time with Andrew Nutter ...... **Page 6**
Spell check: Sabrina and *other witches* .... **Page 9**

Question: Biggest threat to British pubs? ..... **Page 4**
Books .... **Pages 9-14**
What's On ...... **Pages 15-21**
TV Guide ...... **Pages 23-51**

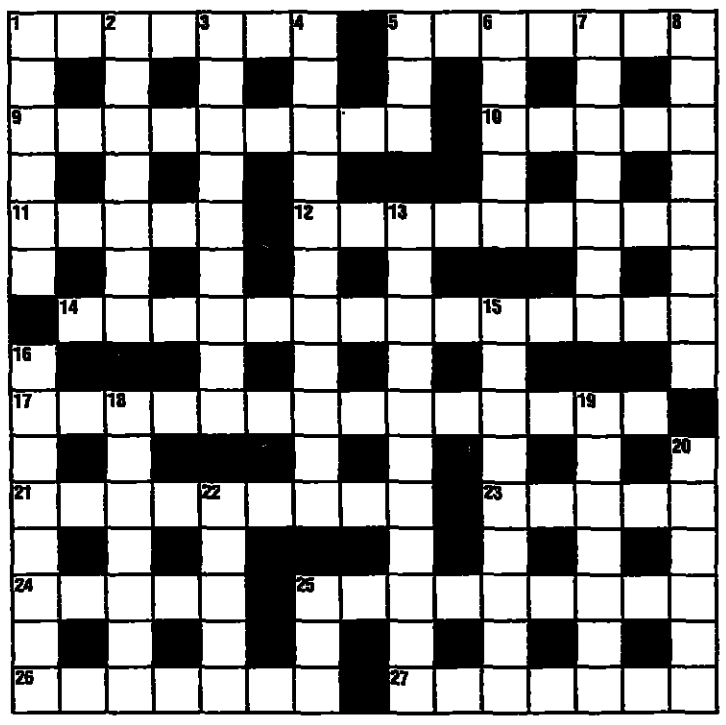
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,572

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

....



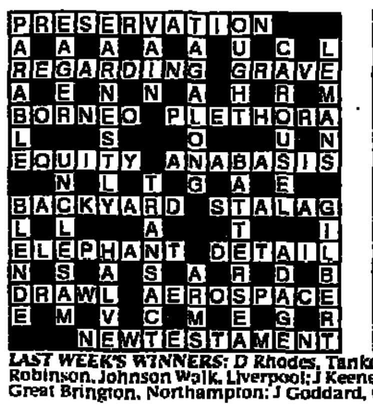
ACROSS

1 Whip son with force – bishop's given consent (7).
5 Fresh lock, perhaps (7).
9 Work to make bread quickly as a cook's assistant? (3-6).
10 African capital making good investment in Asian country (5).
11 *Bone found by archaeologists in* Asia Minor (5).
12 Note of what's paid by lawyers in drinking-place (6,3).
14 *Philosopher appears to settle in* fashionable London area (8,6).
17 Explanation of incompetence safe head heard (5,9).
21 Area in North, in this case restructured (9).
23 Carefully groomed king, not entirely vain (5).
24 Place for mooring vessel (5).
25 Potential soldiers are held up here (5-4).
26 *In tears, turning to drink* (7).
27 Sunday best motorist speedily changes into (3,4).

DOWN

1 Hope is lost for Western girl (6).
2 He famously performed a series of steps with energy (7).
3 One providing better service for writer? (9).
4 Special oil I clear. OK to produce a lot of heat (11).
5 One sort of conifer produces this cone (3).
6 Poet's anger about king (5).
7 Subject in which a learner, for example, is brought up with support (7).
8 Mess producing complaint (8).
13 Promising beginning made by fledgling (6,5).
15 Dance arranged for the fleet (9).
16 If it got hit in the middle, onus would be on us (5-3).
18 Matching garments as result of special delivery (7).
19 One drink or another served in lounge (7).
20 Horrific story-teller employed on steamship (6).
22 Oriental city with a noisy section (5).
25 Leaves king stripped off tree (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,566



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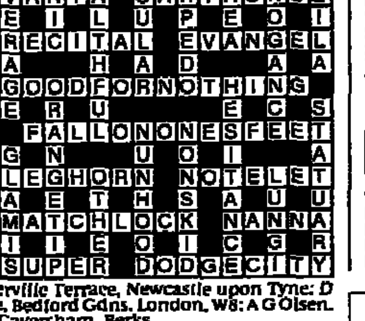
PRESERVATION   
A A A A A U C L
REGARDING GRAVE
A E N N A H R M
BORNEO PLETHORA
L   S   O   U N
EQUITY ANABASIS
  N L T G A E  
BACKYARD STALAG
L L   A   T   I
ELEPHANT DETAIL
N S A S A R D B
DRAWL AEROSPACE
E M V C M E G R
   NEWTESTAMENT
```

Solution to Puzzle No 20,571



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CUTTHROAT BRASS
O U E S O O R H
VANYA CARTHORSE
E I L U P E O I
RECITAL EVANGEL
A   H A D   A A
GOODFORNOTHING 
E R U     E C S
 FALLONONESFEET
G N   U O I   A
LEGHORN NOTELET
A E T H S A U U
MATCHLOCK NANNA
I I E O I C G R
SUPER DODGECITY
```

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: D Rhodes, Tankerville Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne; D Robinson, Johnson Walk, Liverpool; J Keene, Bedford Gdns, London, W8; A G Olsen, Great Brington, Northampton; J Goddard, Caversham, Berks.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6 10 am
Sun sets: 7 51 pm
Moon sets 6.34 pm
Moon rises 3.34 am

New moon September 1

London 7.51 pm to 6 11 am
Bristol 8 01 pm to 6.21 am
Edinburgh 8 12 pm to 6 15 am
Manchester 8 03 pm to 6 16 am
Penzance 8.11 pm to 6 35 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.11 am
Sun sets: 7.49 pm
Moon sets 7.03 pm
Moon rises 4.34 am

New moon tomorrow

London 7.49 pm to 6 13 am
Bristol 7 59 pm to 6.23 am
Edinburgh 8 10 pm to 6.17 am
Manchester 8 01 pm to 6 18 am
Penzance 8 09 pm to 6.37 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	00 46	6.5	13 12	6.6
Aberdeen	00.29	3.9	13 02	3 8
Avonmouth	06.22	11.6	18.44	12.1
Belfast	10.24	3 1	22.30	3.4
Cardiff	06 08	10 8	18 30	11.2
Devonport	05 02	4 8	17.21	5 1
Dover	*10.22*	*6 0*	*22.48*	*6.1*
Dublin (N Wall)	11.09	3 7	23.26	4 0
Falmouth	04.33	4 6	16 52	4 9
Greenock	-	-	12 15	3.0
Harwich	11.06	3.6	23.34	3 7
Holyhead	09.56	4 9	22 09	5 2
Hull (Albert D)	*05 32*	*7 8*	*18 04*	*7 7*
Ilfracombe	05.13	7 9	17 35	8 3
King's Lynn	05.37	5 9	18 13	5 9
Leith	01.47	5 0	14 15	5 0
Liverpool	10.37	8 4	22 57	8 8
Lowestoft	08.45	2 4	21.32	2 3
Margate	*11 24*	*4 3*	*23 58*	*4 4*
Milford Haven	05 28	5.9	17.50	6 2
Newquay	04.23	6 0	16 44	6 3
Oban	05.24	3 3	17 42	3 5
Penzance	03 53	4 8	16 14	5.0
Portland	06 03	1.5	18 14	1 7
Portsmouth	*10 46*	*4.2*	*22 55*	*4.2*
Shoreham	10 34	5 4	22 57	5.5
Southampton	10 17	4.2	22 33	4 3
Swansea	05 30	8 1	17.55	8.5
Tees	02.48	4 8	15 17	4 8
Walton-on-N	11 00	3 7	23.29	3 8

All times BST. Hights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Margate and Manston, both Kent, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Lough Fea, Co Tyrone, 15C (59F); highest rainfall: Bristol Weather Centre, 0.91in; highest sunshine: Littlehampton, West Sussex, 10.5hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** rain will clear southeast England early in the morning, then all *parts of England and Wales will be dry* with sunny spells. Rain will spread into southwest England towards evening, spreading northwards overnight to affect most of southern and central England and Wales before morning. Scotland will have a few showers, with the best sunshine in the east. There may be a few showers in Northern Ireland to interrupt a mainly dry day.

☐ **London, SE England:** early rain clearing, then sunny spells. Light NW wind. Max 21C (70F)

☐ **E Anglia, Cent S England, E & W Midlands, S & N Wales:** dry with sunny spells. Light W wind. Max 19C (66F)

☐ **E, NW, Cent N & NE England, Lake Dist, IoM:** mainly dry with sunny spells. Light to moderate W wind. Max 19C (66F)

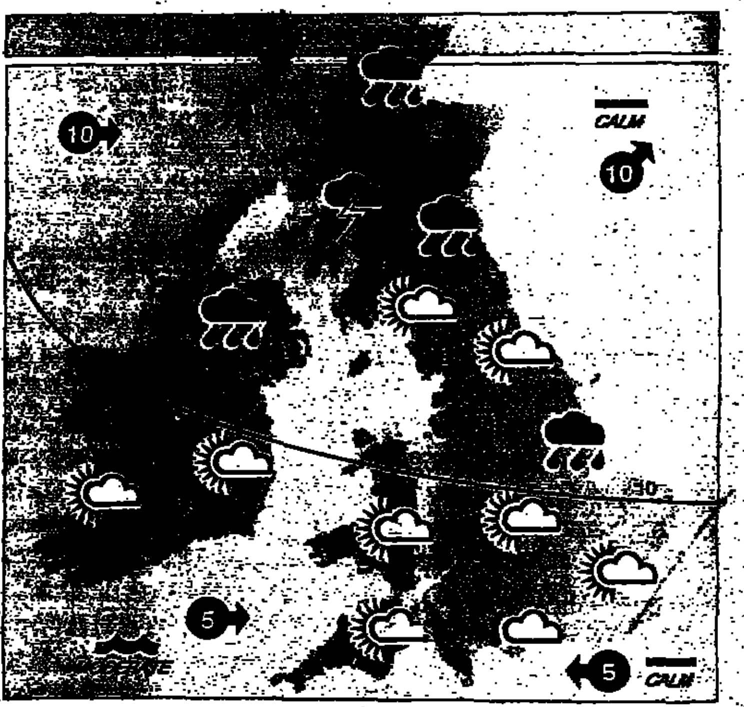
☐ **Channel Iss, SW England:** dry, rain later. Light NW wind, moderate SE later. *Max 19C (66F)*

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth, Northern Ireland:** mainly dry, isolated showers. Moderate SW wind. Max 19C (66F)

☐ **Cent Highlands, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** showers and sunny spells. Fresh SW wind. Max 17C (63F)

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** sunny spells and scattered showers, mostly in northeast. Light NW wind. Max 20C (68F)

☐ **Outlook:** rain will sweep northwards across England and Wales tomorrow before easing from the south. Most of Scotland and Northern Ireland will miss the rain. On Monday the rain will slowly clear eastern England. Elsewhere will be dry.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

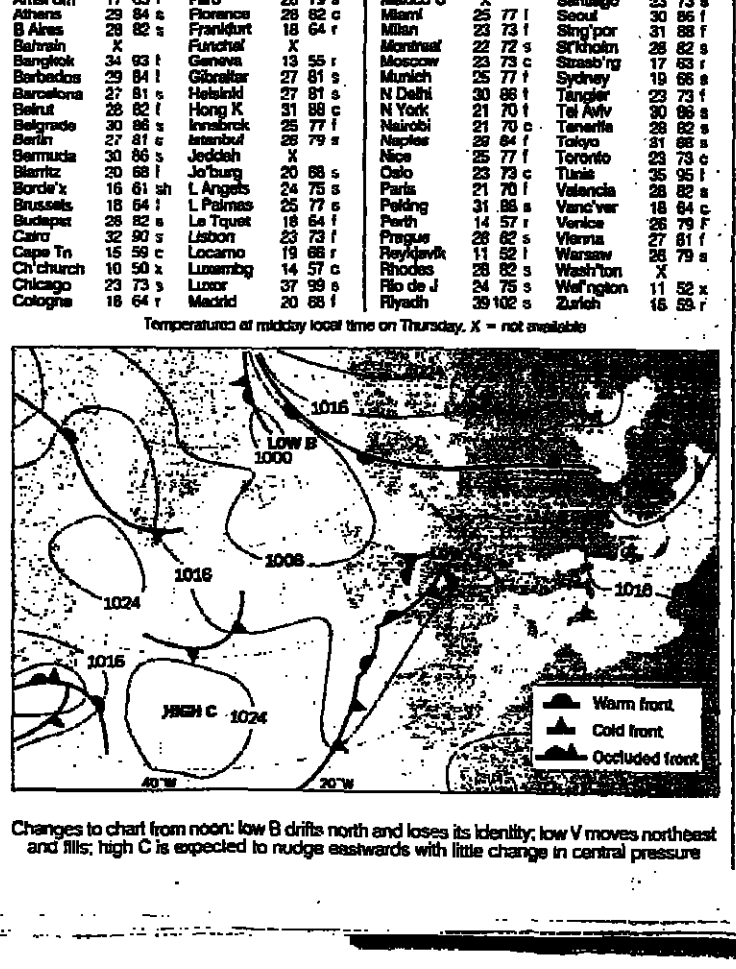
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X					Lerwick	9.4	0.61	17	63	s
Anglesey	8.7	0.05	19	66	s	Leuchars	X				
Aspatria	6.1	0.10	17	63	sh	Littlehmptn	10.5	0.01	20	68	s
Aviemore	6.4	0.17	19	66	sh	London	7.4	0.01	21	70	b
Belfast	3.9	0.19	17	63	b	Lowestoft	8.0	0.01	20	68	sh
Birmingham	6.1	0.20	20	68	b	Manchester	3.3	0.30	18	64	sh
Bognor R	10.0	0.02	20	68	s	Margate	X	0.06	22	72	b
Bournem'th	X					Minehead	4.3	0.25	18	64	b
Bristol	6.6	0.88	19	66	b	Morecambe	6.6	0.08	18	64	s
Buxton	5.0	0.69	16	61	s	Newcastle	7.8	0.01	19	66	sh
Cardiff	3.8	0.33	18	64	sh	Newquay	X				
Clacton	9.2	0.30	20	68	s	Norwich	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	X	0.29	20	68	b
Colwyn Bay	X					Penzance	X				
Cromer	8.5	0.01	20	68	s	Poole	9.1	0.06	21	70	s
Dunbar	5.9	-	20	68	b	Prestatyn	X	0.61	18	64	b
Eastbourne	*9.0*	*0.11*	*20*	*68*	*s*	*Ross-o-wye*	*7.4*	*0.10*	*20*	*68*	*s*
Edinburgh	5.4	0.04	19	66	sh	Salcombe	4.8	0.07	19	66	b
Eskdalemuir	4.2	0.23	16	61	h	Saunton Snd	3.0	0.04	18	64	s
Exmouth	6.6	0.01	19	66	s	Scarboro'	X				
Falmouth	4.6	X	18	64	c	Shrewsbury	7.2	0.32	19	66	sh
Fishguard	5.4	0.17	17	63	sh	Skegness	X				
Folkestone	9.6	0.13	21	70	s	Southend	7.5	-	21	70	c
Glasgow	2.3	0.24	18	64	r	Southport	6.9	0.31	18	64	s
Guernsey	8.6	0.20	22	72	s	Southsea	X				
Hastings	9.3	0.19	19	66	s	Stornoway	5.0	0.02	17	63	sh
Hayling I.	9.3	0.03	20	68	s	Swanage	9.8	0.02	19	66	s
Herne Bay	7.8	0.02	21	70	s	Teignmouth	6.3	-	19	66	s
Hove	8.6	0.03	19	66	s	Tenby	5.6	0.17	18	64	s
Hunstanton	5.7	-	20	68	b	Tiree	8.5	0.28	17	63	sh
Isle-of-Man	8.1	0.10	18	64	s	Torquay	5.8	0.01	20	68	s
Isle-of-Wight	8.8	0.02	19	66	s	Tynemouth	-	-	19	66	s
Jersey	4.2	0.11	21	70	sh	West-s-mare	3.8	0.31	19	66	b
Kinloss	7.3	0.37	19	66	r	Weymouth	8.8	-	19	66	s
Leeds	7.9	0.10	19	66	sh						

ABROAD

Ajaccio	29	84	f	Corfu	28	82	f	Majorca	25	77	f	Rome	28	82	f
Akrotiri	29	84	s	C'phagn	24	75	f	Malaga	27	81	s	S Fr'sco	22	72	s
Alex'dria	29	84	s	Dublin	15	59	c	Malta	31	88	s	S Paulo	X		
Algiers	31	88	f	Dubrovnik	26	79	s	Melb'rne	15	59	c	Salzburg	28	82	f
Amst'dm	17	63	f	Faro	26	79	s	Mexico C	X			Santiago	23	73	s
Athens	29	84	s	Florence	28	82	c	Miami	25	77	f	Seoul	30	86	f
B Aires	28	82	s	Frankfurt	18	64	r	Milan	23	73	f	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	X			*Funchal*	X			*Montreal*	22	72	s	St'kholm	28	82	s
Bangkok	34	93	f	Geneva	13	55	r	Moscow	23	73	c	Strasb'rg	17	63	r
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	27	81	s	Munich	25	77	f	Sydney	19	66	s
Barcelona	27	81	s	Helsinki	27	81	s	N Delhi	30	86	f	Tangier	23	73	f
Beirut	28	82	f	Hong K	31	88	c	N York	21	70	f	Tel Aviv	30	86	s
Belgrade	30	86	s	Innsbrck	25	77	f	Nairobi	21	70	c	Tenerife	28	82	s
Berlin	27	81	s	*Istanbul*	26	79	s	*Naples*	29	84	f	Tokyo	31	88	s
Bermuda	30	86	s	Jeddah	X			Nice	25	77	f	Toronto	23	73	c
Biarritz	20	68	f	Jo'burg	20	68	s	Oslo	23	73	c	Tunis	35	95	f
Borde'x	16	61	sh	L Angels	24	75	s	Paris	21	70	f	Valencia	28	82	s
Brussels	18	64	f	L Palmas	25	77	s	Peking	31	88	s	Vanc'ver	18	64	c
Budapest	28	82	s	Le Touquet	18	64	f	Perth	14	57	r	Venice	26	79	f
Cairo	32	90	s	Lisbon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Prague	23	73	f	Vienna	27	81	f
Cape Tn	15	59	[illegible]	Locarno	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Reykjavik	11	52	[illegible]	Warsaw	26	79	s
Ch'church	17	63	[illegible]	Luxbourg	14	57	[illegible]	Rhodes	28	82	s	Wash'ton	X		
Chicago	26	79	[illegible]	Luxor	37	99	s	Rio de J	24	75	s	Wellngton	11	52	x
Cologne	18	64	f	Madrid	20	68	f	Riyadh	39	102	s	Zurich	15	59	r

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to chart from noon: low B drifts north and loses its identity; low V moves northeast and fills; high C is expected to nudge eastwards with little change in central pressure

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DC-10 to Barbados on 23 December ● eight nights at Sam Lord's ● inaugural Concorde to Havana ● two nights with tours ● New Year's Dinner ● return to Gatwick £1,999

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THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

WORKING WEEK
The maverick looking for an alchemist's touch
PAGE 27

BUSINESS
Graham Searjeant on a £40 billion mutual friend
PAGE 29

SPORT
Dazzling 64 pitches Harrington into Cup reckoning
PAGES 38-48

THE TIMES CITY DIARY
PAGE 27

SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

Bauman moves in to revive BTR's fortunes

By Paul Durman

LEADING investors yesterday warmly welcomed BTR's decision that its next chairman will be Bob Bauman, the American chairman of British Aerospace and the driving force behind the creation of SmithKline Beecham.

Mr Bauman, 66, is regarded as the sort of heavyweight figure needed to oversee the £10 billion manufacturing group's attempt to pull itself out of years of decline.

However, some investors questioned whether, as a non-executive chairman, he will be sufficiently involved to precipitate important changes. Some would like him to prove himself by firing or sidelining Kathleen O'Donovan, the BTR finance director who has been criticised for having a weak grasp of strategic issues.

Mr Bauman will replace Elwyn Eilledge, previously the senior partner of Ernst & Young, BTR's auditor for many years, and little known in the City until he became chairman in May last year.

BTR plans that Mr Bauman will join its board as deputy chairman in October and take over as chairman after next May's annual shareholders's meeting. The announcement added 11½p to BTR's shares, lifting them to 218p.

Shareholders were unanimous in praising Mr Bauman's appointment. One large investor said it would be a sign Mr Bauman meant business "if we see Kathy go — not because she's a bad finance director, but because she's there to do what everyone's always wanted her to do, to collect the numbers and not be difficult." Other institutions are more critical of Ms O'Donovan. One said: "She does not particularly impress. If I was just having a meeting with her about BTR, I don't think I would come away impressed very often." However, Ms O'Donovan does have her supporters, including Standard Life.

One institution praised Mr Eilledge for being "big" enough to retire ahead of schedule. The fund management chief said: "He's done 80 per cent of the right stuff — if possible, he should have gone slightly earlier." Another senior investment manager who had met Mr Eilledge gained the impression that "there's nothing there apart from the guy thinking, this is rather nice, being made chairman of FTSE 100 company".

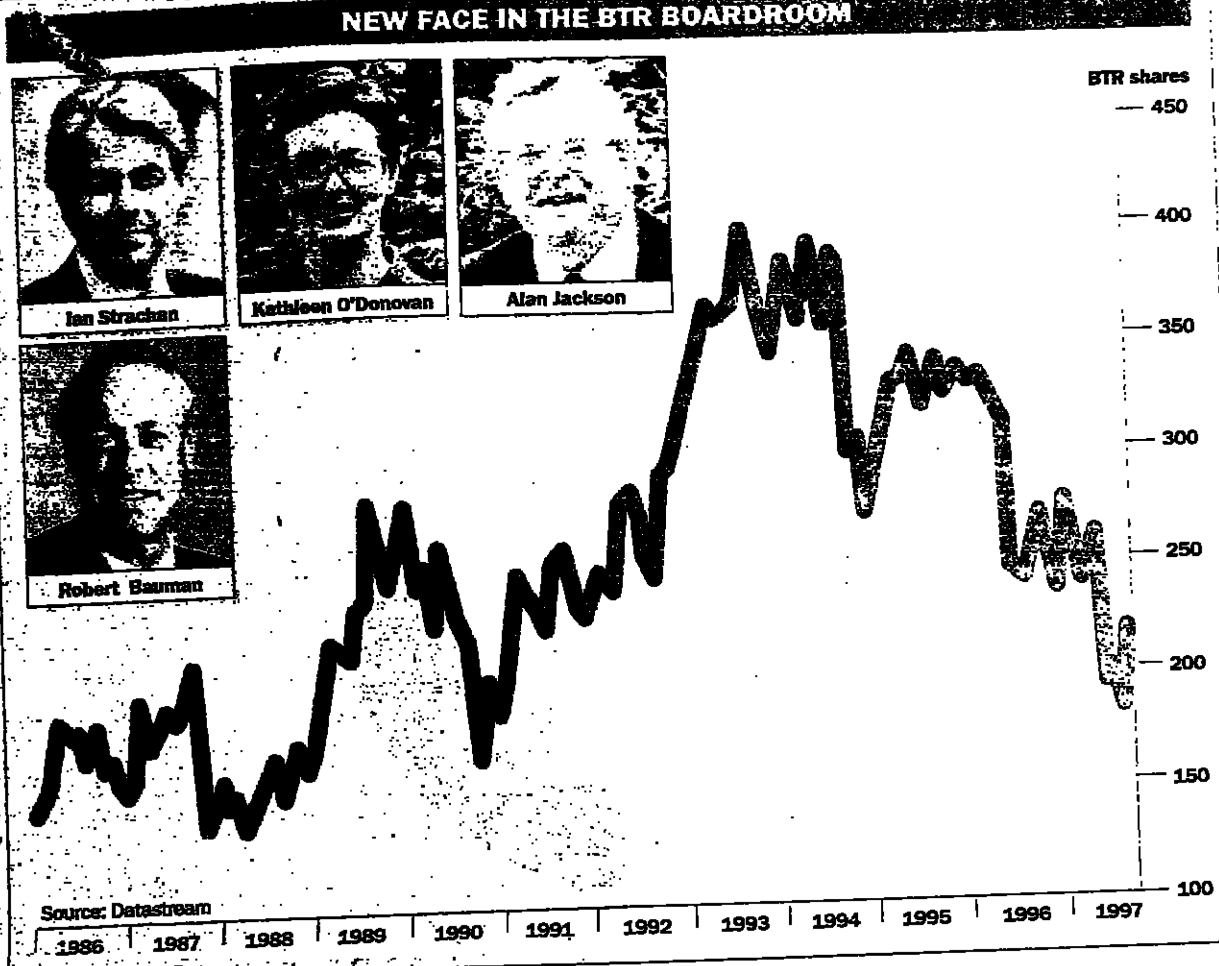
After years of steady profits growth driven by margin improvements, BTR is embarking on a sweeping cultural change under Ian Strachan, the chief executive who joined July 1995 to replace Alan Jackson. The group is trying to encourage its managers to think more about increasing sales and new product development. It has reorganised its hundreds of businesses into seven groups. However, progress has been held back by weak markets and the strength of sterling.

Mr Strachan said Mr Eilledge, 62, had decided to retire having achieved the goals he set himself, including restructuring the board by removing the former BTR executives who had taken on non-executive roles. Mr Bauman has a long association with Simon Robertson, the former head of Kleinwort Benson who recently joined BTR's board.

Mr Eilledge's compensation and Mr Bauman's pay have not been decided. Mr Eilledge, who gives three days a week to BTR, earned £152,000 in his seven months as chairman last year.

Tempus, page 28

NEW FACE IN THE BTR BOARDROOM



Source: Datastream

Sultan acts to rescue currency

By Janet Bush
Economics Editor

THE Sultan of Brunei was seen as white knight to his troubled neighbours yesterday with dealers saying he was a major buyer of Singapore dollars and Malaysian ringgit.

The world's richest man has already signalled his readiness to help to stabilise plunging Asian currency and stock markets by contributing $500 million (£310 million) to a $16.7 billion IMF rescue package for Thailand.

Dealers in the Far East yesterday identified the Brunei Investment Agency as a significant buyer of Singapore dollars, and saying the agency appears to have been an active purchaser of Malaysian ringgit.

Traders and currency strategists in London were sceptical that intervention of this kind would make any lasting difference and Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Singapore, warned the region's central bankers not to waste money fighting the markets.

The amount spent by Brunei on buying Singapore dollars was put at around $300 million, an amount described as "small beer" by one currency strategist in London.

A Far East analyst said: "The Sultan of Brunei knows that, however much he throws at the problem, it will not be solved without proper adjustments in economic policy."

Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, said that governments must be prepared to intervene directly.

The Singapore dollar bounced to 1.4960 to the dollar from an earlier 38-month low of 1.5375 and the ringgit jumped to 2.8630 to the dollar from a record low of 2.9650.

Funds hit, page 26

WEEKEND
MONEY

31
Anne Ashworth on the fast track to home ownership

29
Self-assessment. Will you meet the deadline?

31
Health cover tax. How the elderly are coping

INVESTMENT

33
Global strategies. Fund managers share secrets

TRUST WATCH

MORTGAGES

35
Graduate debt and first-time buyers

Brussels concern for GMG merger

KAREL VAN MIERT, the European Competition Commissioner, will tell Guinness and Grand Metropolitan next week that he has serious concerns about their proposed £24 billion merger (Dominic Walsh writes).

As a prelude to a hearing on Thursday and Friday, the European Commission last week sent the two drinks companies a list of objections. These are believed to centre on the combined group, to be named GMG Brands, having more than 40 per cent of the whisky market in Spain, Portugal and Greece, plus significant Scottish distilleries.

There are also worries about GMG's strength in the "must-stock" brands, enabling it to exert greater bargaining power when dealing with big retailers. Impact International, the research group, says GMG would control 18 of the top 100 premium spirits brands worldwide compared with Allied Domecq's 12 and Seagram's nine. These include Smirnoff vodka, Gordon's gin and Johnnie Walker, Bell's and Dewars whisky.

The Commission is unlikely to block the merger if Guinness and GrandMet agree to make changes, but the indications last night were that they were unlikely to offer any immediate concessions. The EU opened it four-month inquiry in June and has until October 27 to give a ruling.

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	4817.5	(-27.9)
Yield	3.43%	
FTSE All share	2276.72	(-11.87)
Nikkei	18229.42	(-222.09)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7667.25	(-27.18)*
S&P Composite	902.89	(-0.98)*
Federal Funds	5½%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	96[illegible]*	(97[illegible])
Yield	6.61%*	(6.57%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	7¼%	(7¼%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	114½	(114½)
New York:		
$	1.6207*	(1.6189)
London:		
$	1.6210	(1.6151)
DM	2.9195	(2.9013)
FFr	9.8270	(9.7648)
SFr	2.4068	(2.3958)
Yen	195.09	(191.36)
£ Index	102.2	(101.5)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.8050*	(1.7930)
FFr	6.0738*	(6.0340)
SFr	1.4888*	(1.4823)
Yen	120.78*	(119.08)
$ Index	105.8	(105.2)
Tokyo close Yen 119.35		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Nov)	$18.65	($18.60)
London close	$324.65	($325.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Botts team opts out of Grundig

By Oliver August

A UK investor group led by Botts & Co, the London merchant bank, has abandoned its attempt to rescue Grundig, the ailing German television maker.

The UK investors sold their 43 per cent stake, which they bought from Philips last month, to a Bavarian investor group for an undisclosed sum.

At the time of purchase, the UK group said it would inject new capital into Grundig with a view to selling its stake in three to five years.

Botts also talked about gaining majority control in 2004, when more shares will become available. The bank had not seen Grundig's accounts before the acquisition.

A Botts spokesman said yesterday: "We have found a 'Bavarian' solution that all parties believe is in the best interest of Grundig."

Grundig has also settled a dispute over the validity of its accounts with Philips, a shareholder. Philips will pay compensation of around £130 million.

CWC and BSkyB in pay-TV pact

By Eric Reguly

CABLE & WIRELESS Communications, the largest cable group, has broken ranks with the rest of the cable industry by agreeing in principle to use BSkyB as its pay-per-view supplier instead of developing a service of its own.

An announcement is expected within a few weeks. A CWC official said that negotiations are largely finished and are being reviewed by lawyers.

The agreement is a big victory for BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

CWC, formed earlier this year through a merger of Mercury Communications and three cable companies, made it known from the outset that it was considering a pay-per-view service of its own. This would have allowed it to keep most of the profits in what has become the fastest-growing sector of the pay-TV market.

Salomon Brothers, the broker, has estimated that BSkyB's digital pay-per-view service, to be launched next year, will generate £344 million in annual revenues by 2000. The service allows customers to pay to see individual films and sporting events. BSkyB's first pay-per-view event, the Frank Bruno-Mike Tyson fight, attracted 600,000 subscribers.

BSkyB would neither confirm nor deny that an agreement has been struck with CWC. The company has, however, always said that it was confident that the leading cable companies would opt for its pay-per-view service.

CWC chose not to develop a pay-per-view service for fear of confusing customers: subscribers would have been offered BSkyB's version, called Sky Box Office, as well as its own. Competition between two services would have driven up programming costs.

CWC's agreement with BSkyB will rock the cable industry. The cable companies had formed a group called On Demand to study the idea of creating a pay-per-view service in competition with BSkyB's. With CWC linked with BSkyB, On Demand's chances of success are considerably considerably smaller. However, TeleWest, the second-largest cable company, may still launch its own pay-per-view service.

Ivory hires Phoenix to rise from ashes

By Gavin Lumsden

IVORY & SIME, the Scottish fund manager, has admitted that it is looking for a partner to rescue it from the doldrums by appointing DLJ Phoenix, the merchant bank, to advise on "strategic options".

In the past year, Ivory & Sime has been hit by high-level departures, including Colin Hook, the former managing director, and the loss of important mandates, including the £700 million BAA pension fund. In addition, several of its investment trusts, notably Enterprise and Baronsmead, look vulnerable to takeover, which could lead to further reduction in fee income.

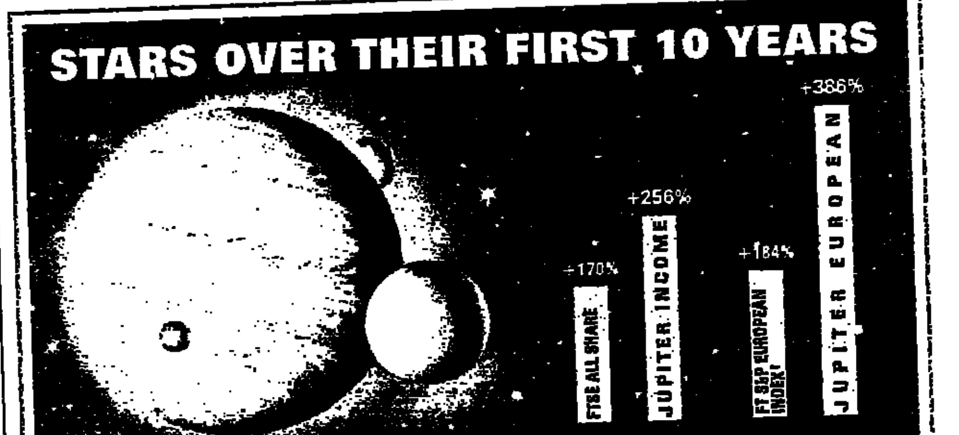
Speculation over who would buy the company has focused on two European financial services groups, ABN Amro and Fortis.

Putting the best possible spin on the move, Sir David Kinloch, chairman and chief executive, said: "We have been approached by several parties. Phoenix's role will be to evaluate their proposals and progress the talks. We recognised that there would be a strong likelihood of a leak and thought it would be better to be open about what is happening."

Ivory & Sime is 29.2 per cent owned by Caledonia Investments, run by the Cayzer family. Ivory & Sime said that Caledonia recognised that "any enlargement of the group might involve a dilution of its interest".

Sir David would not comment on what level Caledonia might be left with, nor on whether the Ivory & Sime brand would be kept if the company were taken over.

Tempus, page 28



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Bar chart: *Offer to bid, net income reinvested 1.8.87-1.8.97. Source: Micropal †Excluding UK. Five year performance to 1.8.97: Jupiter Income +233% (1st out of 80 sector funds); FTSE All Share +137%; Jupiter European + 239% (2nd out of 108 sector funds); FTS&P European Index +163.0%; offer to bid, net income reinvested. Source: Micropal.

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Currency turmoil hits City's Far East funds

By Gavin Lumsden

THE currency and stock market crises in the Far East have sent the City's Far East funds — which have been among the best performing and most exciting in recent years — running for cover.

The funds' woes increased this week as Malaysia, formerly one of the most favoured of the "tiger" economies, took action which effectively prevented foreign investors from trading in the country's blue chip stocks.

Global investors, already nervous in the face of increasing volatility, reacted by selling their stocks in other countries such as Hong Kong and India in an attempt to reduce their exposure to the region. The result has been a freefall in equities reminiscent of the Mexican peso crisis in December 1994 which sent emerging markets around the world plummeting.

Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines have been the main victims of this downward spiral brought on by a combination of rising levels of debt and overvalued currencies. Since the start of July their stock markets have fallen between 20 and 40 per cent in terms of sterling.

This has had a traumatic effect for collective funds used by UK investors, particularly as most do not hedge against currency movements. Shares of investment trusts in the Far East excluding Japan, for instance, have seen their discounts widen a third to 16.4 per cent in the past month. Meanwhile, the average growth of 224 offshore Far East funds has been just 0.03 per cent since the start of July.

Closer to home the performance of most unit trusts has not been much better, particularly as the average hides some horrific figures from individual funds. Fidelity's ASEAN unit trust has fallen over 16 per cent since July.

Andrew Salton of Old Mutual, whose Thailand Trust has lost over a fifth of its value in the past two months, says the outlook is not good as the countries face stiff competition from China, their giant neighbour. He says countries such as Malaysia are finding the experience of a recession difficult to bear after a decade of strong economic growth.

Andrew Couch, global equity strategist at Guinness Flight, says the worst is over but more falls will come: "It is difficult to catch a falling knife. These coutries are two-thirds down their descent. They have one third left to go. All you can say is that in 12 months' time they will be in a fantastic position to recover."

Trust Watch, page 38

Autoliv in bid for Marling

By Chris Ayres

AUTOLIV, the Swedish automotive safety products group, yesterday made an agreed £31 million cash offer for Marling, the troubled industrial textiles company.

The offer values Marling's shares at 17p each, a 70 per cent premium to the company's share price on Thursday.

Marling already supplies seatbelt materials to Autoliv, which holds a 20 per cent stake in its seatbelt division.

Autoliv said the move was a another step forward in its programme of vertical integration.

Marling had sales of about £62.7 million last year on pre-tax losses of £5.2 million. It ran into trouble after a bungled attempt to diversify into heathcare.

Cellars buyer: Nader Haghighi, right, and Rob Lucas of CVC, which backed the management buyout of the division

Managers buy Greenalls off-licences

By Dominic Walsh

NADER HAGHIGHI has come a long way since hawking cigarettes and chewing gum on the streets of Iran as a child. Yesterday he unveiled a £56 million management buyout of Cellars, the Greenalls Group's off-licence division, with backing from CVC Capital Partners and NatWest Ventures. The debt is being provided by Bank of Scotland.

Mr Haghighi, who intends to expand the business, was managing director of Cellars for three years until his promotion in March to marketing and commercial director of Greenalls' pubs and restaurants division. Cellars, which is based in Warrington, operates 460 off-licences, of which 270 trade under the Cellar 5 brand.

The book value of the business was £67.8 million and Greenalls, which has been seeking a buyer for three months, will book a £13 million loss on the disposal.

Bank home loan slowdown in July

By Janet Bush, economics editor

BRITISH banks yesterday reported a slight slowdown in the growth of their mortgage lending business in July, providing tentative evidence that the pace of activity in the housing market may be starting to ease.

Net mortgage lending rose by £886 million in July, slightly down on the increase of £915 million in June, according to the British Bankers' Association.

New approvals were also weaker than in June. The number of new approvals fell to 45,043, from 49,972, and their value declined to £2.72 billion, from £2.81 billion the previous month. The BBA noted that both the number and the value of new approvals rose by 4 per cent between June and July last year.

However, the BBA also pointed out that the average value of approvals, of £60,300 in July this year, was still up 4 per cent on a year ago. In addition, gross lending of £3.12 billion in July represented a leap of 9 per cent from June's level.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders today predicts a rise of 6.5 per cent in nationwide house prices next year, only a little down on the 7.2 per cent increase expected this year.

SFM quits fight to run Saracen

By Gavin Lumsden

SFM Investment Management has pulled out of the battle to manage Saracen Value Trust (SVT), the only investment trust that it manages.

Independent directors of SVT have told the fund manager of their intention to end its contract after SFM withdrew its proposals to reorganise the £110 million trust.

SVT, an investor in smaller companies, has underperformed most competitors and had seen its share price fall to a 20 per cent discount to net asset value at the start of this month.

Earlier this month, HSBC, backed by 40 per cent of shareholders, called for itself to be made investment manager. Since then 13 other fund managers have approached the beleaguered trust about taking it over. A special meeting to debate HSBC's proposal is to be held on 18 September.

Antony Dick, SVT chairman, has urged shareholders to reject HSBC's proposals. He favours separate proposals by Invesco and J O Hambro & Partners and is seeking talks with both companies.

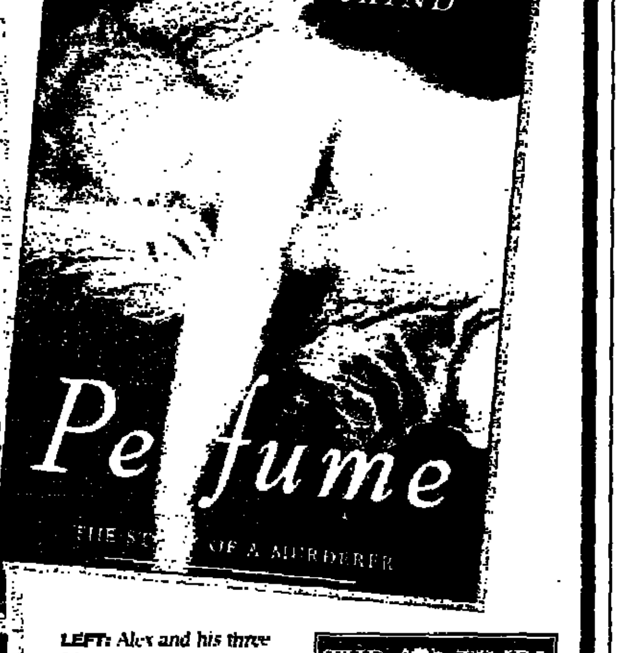
SFM can expect £2 million in compensation if its contract is cancelled soon. James Fisher, SFM managing director, said this would be used to start a small companies unit trust.

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

10 bestsellers for just £1.98 each

This week The Times, in association with Penguin Books, gives you the chance to obtain up to ten bestselling paperbacks for your summer reading for as little as £1.98 each. There are eleven outstanding works of fiction for you to choose from and one autobiography.

All you have to do is collect four tokens per title from the six published in The Times. Below are two of the titles you can choose (a full list was published yesterday). Other bestsellers include Jack Kerouac's On the Road, A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess, The Trial by Franz Kafka and Cry The Beloved Country by Alan Paton.



PATR
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THE ST OF A MURDERER

LEFT: Alex and his three friends rob, rape, torture and murder for fun. This social prophecy is a penetrating study of human choice between good and evil. Above: Set in 18th-century Paris, a fantastic tale of murder and twisted eroticism, highly original.

THE TIMES
TOKEN 6

THE TIMES

Jarvis fails to win over Hanover

By Dominic Walsh

JOHN JARVIS, chairman and chief executive of Jarvis Hotels, has been rebuffed after making a £30 million approach for Hanover International, a chain of six provincial hotels and one in Cork in the Republic of Ireland. Mr Jarvis may now decide to launch a hostile takeover.

Hanover, brought to the market two years ago by Peter Eyles, former chief executive of Norfolk Capital Hotels, yesterday confirmed that it had received "an approach which did not lead to a formal offer", adding: "No discussions are taking place."

Mr Eyles refused to identify the suitor, though City sources confirmed that it was Jarvis. He said: "We are a very precisely targeted high-quality independent hotel group that feels it can deliver value to shareholders through its independence." Hanover's biggest hotel is the 270-bedroom Hanover International, at Hinckley, Leicestershire.

Mr Jarvis, who recently walked away from a deal to buy some of Ladbroke's non-core hotels, would not comment on Hanover, but admitted "looking at everything".

Tempus, page 28

Risk control review at CSFB

By Paul Durman

CREDIT SUISSE First Boston, the Swiss-owned investment bank, is reviewing its risk control systems after claiming that one of its option traders put an estimated £300 million at risk by taking unauthorised bets on the UK stock market.

CSFB has dismissed Philip Penner, a 33-year-old American, and reported his activities to the Securities and Futures Authority, the City regulator. The SFA has suspended Mr Penner's registration, which it granted only in May last year.

Mr Penner is alleged to have taken options on the movement in the UK stock market that far exceeded his trading limits, having previously been asked to close his positions.

The money concerned was CSFB's own capital rather than that of clients. When the extent of the option bets came to light, CSFB unwound the position, suffering a loss of less than $10 million (£6.2 million).

The bank, which is part of the Crédit Suisse group, already regards its risk controls as very stringent, but is reviewing them to see if lessons can be learnt from the affair.

Optus head to go in second shake-up

By Eric Reguly

CABLE & WIRELESS yesterday announced the second management shake-up in three months at Optus, the Australian telecoms group in which it has a 49 per cent stake. The changes came the day after Optus's struggling pay-TV division announced a deep loss.

Peter Howell-Davies, the former chief executive of Mercury Communications who had been Optus's chief executive since June, is to step down in October. He will be replaced by Chris Anderson, currently chief executive of Television New Zealand and a director of Clear Communications, the country's second-largest phone group.

C&W said that Mr Howell-Davies knew from the outset that it was looking for another chief executive. "We just found one sooner than we expected."

Mr Howell-Davies is to continue as an executive director of Optus for several months.

He lost his job in London earlier this year when Mercury, which was 80 per cent owned by C&W, merged with three cable companies to create Cable and Wireless Communications.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

MMC rules on property centres

SOLICITORS' property centres in Scotland are not operating against the public interest, according to a report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Nigel Griffiths, Under Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs, said: "The MMC found that a complex monopoly situation exists in favour of solicitors' property centres in Scotland." But he added that the arrangements under which the nine property centres operated "do not and may not be expected to operate against the public interest".

Solicitors in Scotland are often involved in property sales on behalf of clients. The property centres provide a central marketing outlet for houses being sold by member-solicitors and, with a high street presence, are in direct competition with chains of estate agents. The 18-month investigation looked at the way in which centres operate, which does not allow independent estate agents to share facilities and may exclude properties that are also being marketed by estate agents. In spite of the restrictions imposed by the centres, the MMC said that there was no evidence of a lack of effective competition in the provision of estate agency or conveyancing services.

Battle enters pit talks

JOHN BATTLE, the Energy Minster, has agreed to meet representatives of miners at the Asfordby pit in Leicestershire, which was closed last week by RJB Mining, after previously saying that the closure was not a government matter. The meeting has been brokered by David Taylor, Labour MP for Leicestershire North West, after representatives of the National Union of Mineworkers and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers this week sat down together for the first time in 13 years. City Diary, page 27

MSAS chief to leave

JOHN ALLAN, the chief executive of Ocean Group, is taking direct control of MSAS, the logistics subsidiary, after asking Doug Ash, the MSAS chief executive, to leave. Mr Ash does not have a new job lined up. The company insisted yesterday that "there have been no disagreements over strategy and no personality clashes". Mr Ash was asked to leave because his seven-year tenure was felt to have been long enough, a spokesman said. There are no immediate plans to formally appoint a successor to Mr Ash.

Check on union fees goes

DEMANDS that union members should endorse the payment of subscriptions through their salaries every three years are set to be scrapped. The Department of Trade and Industry plans a one-off authorisation of the "check-off" payments with employees free to opt out of the arrangement whenever they choose. The requirement for regular endorsements was introduced by the Conservatives in 1994. But it has been unpopular with employers as well as unions. Companies dislike the arrangement for being too bureaucratic and costly to administer.

Ashtead acquires Sheriff

ASHTEAD, the plant-hire group, has agreed to buy the rival Sheriff Holdings for £39 million, in an all-paper takeover, making the company the second-largest name in its sector. The deal will lift Ashtead's portfolio of businesses from 155 to 205, and is expected to add £30 million to annual sales. The company said that it is saving its cash firepower to build up its presence in America, and is to couple its US expansion with a dual listing in New York early next year. Sheriff shares leapt 61p to 330p; Ashtead shares held at 300½p.

Leisure company in red

LATE-SEASON transfer activity sent Southampton Leisure, owner of Southampton Football Club, into the red last year. The club incurred a loss of £1.45 million on signings and registrations although Rupert Lowe, chairman, said yesterday that money was still available to strengthen the team. In the 14 months to May 31, which includes four-and-a-half months of contributions from the football club, Southampton incurred a loss of £910,000 (£267,000 profit). The final dividend was maintained at 1p, payable on November 7.

Photo-Me out of focus

PHOTO-ME International, the photo-booth company, saw an 8.3 per cent fall in pre-tax profits in the year to April 30, from £11.3 million to £10.3 million. Turnover fell 14.5 per cent, from £199 million to £170 million, and earnings per share dropped from 8.48p to 8.36p. The final dividend, payable on January 2, will again be 3.5p, leaving the total year dividend unchanged at 5p. The company, which blames its disappointing performance of the strength of sterling, has a new range of fun photo-booths and is seeking acquisitions.

Petrol station deal

RIKKI HUNT, former managing director of Burmah Petroleum Fuels, is buying Thames Rico Service Stations from Thames Petroleum Products Group in a deal backed by Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group. Through the newly formed Petrol Express company, Mr Hunt hopes to build a national chain of petrol retailing service stations to meet what is seen as a need for a serious long-term independent oil company. Thames Rico operates 25 sites, mainly Esso-branded, and Petrol Express intends to expand rapidly by acquisition.

Bruntcliffe slumps

BRUNTCLIFFE AGGREGATES, the quarry company that received a £26.2 million agreed bid this month from Ennstone, the building materials group, yesterday reported a 37 per cent slump in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 from £601,000 to £381,000. Turnover fell 3.8 per cent, from £13.7 million to £13.2 million, and earnings per share dropped 38 per cent, from 0.8p to 0.5p. An unchanged interim dividend of 0.4p will be paid on October 3. The company blamed its disappointing results on a shortage of major work in Scotland.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.32	2.14
Austria Sch	21.51	19.85
Belgium Fr	63.37	58.41
Canada $	2.376	2.188
Cyprus Cyp£	0.903	0.832
Denmark Kr	11.69	10.80
Finland Mk	9.32	8.57
France Fr	10.28	9.50
Germany Dm	3.08	2.84
Greece Dr	485	446
Hong Kong $	13.34	12.14
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.15	1.08
Israel Shk	6.02	5.37
Italy Lira	3013	2778
Japan Yen	209.63	192.10
Malta	0.671	0.612
Netherlds Gld	3.473	3.178
New Zealand $	2.69	2.45
Norway Kr	12.65	11.71
Portugal Esc	308.53	286.50
S Africa Rd	8.31	7.35
Spain Pta	257.29	238.50
Sweden Kr	13.54	12.44
Switzerland Fr	2.56	2.34
Turkey Lira	278383	258505
USA $	1.726	1.583

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

ASIA CRASHES

The tumbling currencies and share markets of southeast Asia are turning out to be this summer's financial nightmare. Is the tiger boom over?

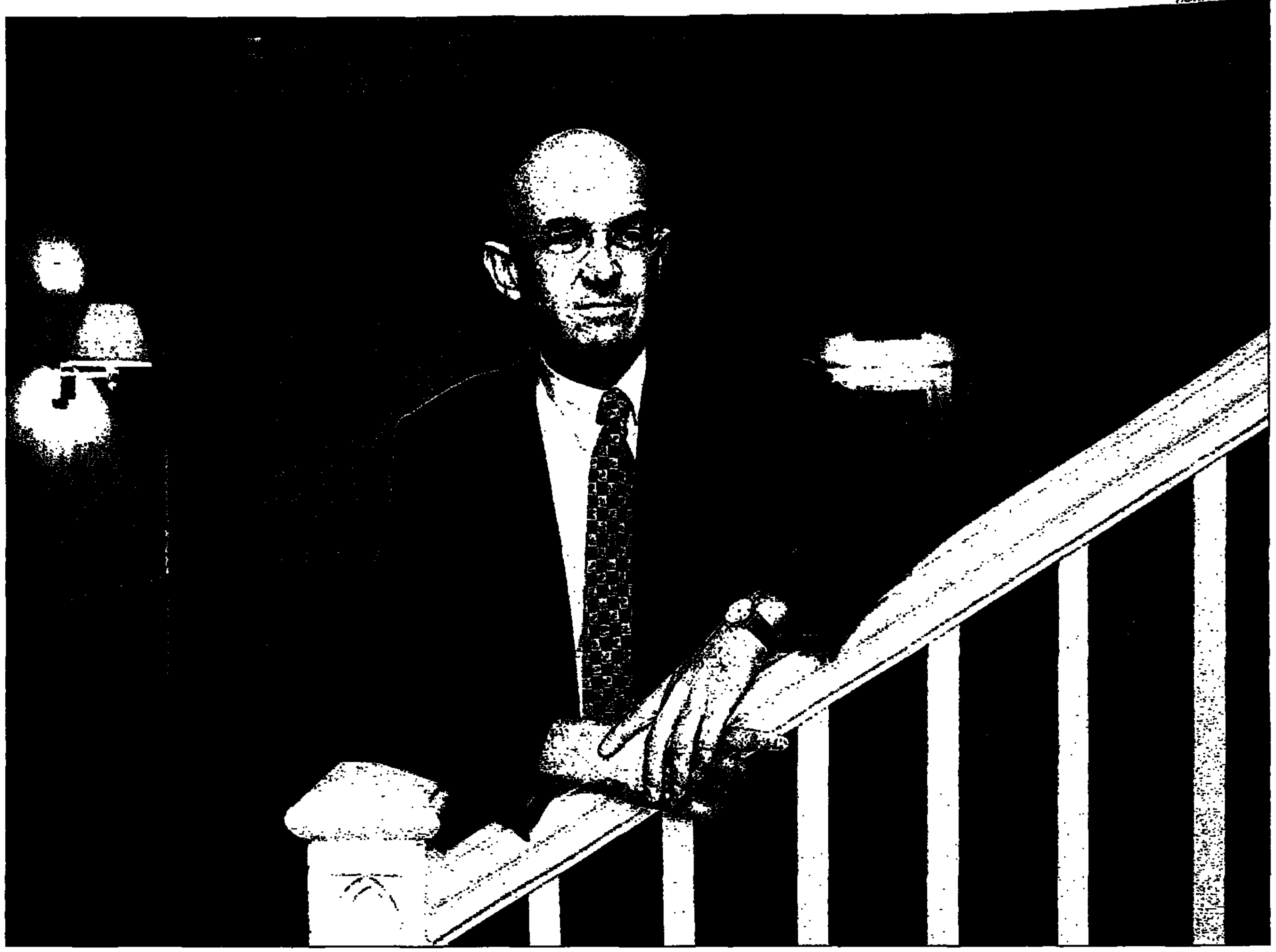
Business Focus — tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

A WORKING WEEK FOR: JON MOULTON

A maverick looking for the golden touch

Jon Ashworth meets the latest DIY baron — out to work alchemy on the newly acquired FADS


HOWARD BARLOW

Jon Moulton, who "could not be more delighted" with the progress of his Alchemy Partners, has taken on the difficult task of running the Homestyle chain disposed of by Boots

JON Moulton started the week with a full lunch diary, a string of telephone messages, and an ambitious deal in the making. This weekend, he is toasting his place as Britain's newest DIY baron, presiding over a range of high street shops that sell everything from wallpaper to home furnishings. Another interesting career move for a chemistry graduate who learnt his trade breaking up failed companies.

Moulton, 47 in October, and a millionaire, is one of the UK's foremost venture capitalists, with a succession of deals — and a mixed track record — to his name. Long associated with Schroder Ventures, which he founded in 1985, and later a director of Apax Partners, Moulton is currently riding high with Alchemy Partners, a private equity partnership that he formed in January with backing from a range of investors. The past few days have been as hectic as they are likely to get.

Earlier in the week, Moulton hammered down the terms of a deal that nets him more than 300 FADS and Homestyle shops from Boots, the Nottingham-based retail group. He becomes chairman of AG Stanley, hitherto Boots's home decorating business, which has not fared well in the face of competition from out-of-town DIY operators such as B&Q and Homebase. Moulton takes the helm at this leaking barque, intent on steering it into safer waters. Those who have felt the more forceful side of his character over the years will be gleefully hoping for some hidden rocks along the way.

The news that AG Stanley was being sold was broken to 27 senior managers on Wednesday night over dinner in the salubrious setting of the Manchester Airport Moat House. "Most of them still had an appetite," says Moulton, drily. He spent the next two nights in Holmes Chapel in Cheshire, where AG Stanley has its head office, complaining noisily about the absence of a gym in his hotel. Observant locals would have seen him jogging through the streets as the milk was delivered.

Those who work closely with Moulton will tell you that he spends his life eating. He does breakfasts — often at the Savoy, conveniently close to his office, just off the Strand. He lunches — *typically at the* Royal Society of Arts or in-house. He does "three or four dinners a week", occasionally at the Savoy Grill, and is rarely home before 11pm. A colleague with access to his diary says: "He is booked up for lunch until November."

Typically at his desk by 8am, Moulton spends most of his day on the telephone, taking call after call, and bellowing commands through the door of his office. He occasionally "crashes out" at his London *pied-à-terre*, currently in the clutches of a lodger, but tends to commute daily by train from Sevenoaks, where he lives with his wife, Pauline. They have a daughter, now at university, and a son, at school in Tonbridge. Moulton dispenses with chauffeured limousines and other corporate trinkets, and tends to travel by taxi.

After a hectic Bank Holiday Monday, in which he spent hours on the telephone to the US, Moulton spent the following two days at his desk before catching the train north on Wednesday evening. He was up early on Thursday to watch the Boots announcement flash up on City screens, before settling down for a long day of meetings, debriefing AG Stanley managers and staff. He flew back from Manchester last night.

> ‘ He claims to have created more than 100 millionaires ’

Moulton had not had the greatest run when he quit Apax in November after less than three years. He spent much of 1996 unsuccessfully negotiating the buyout of Signet, the jewellery group formerly called Ratners. Moulton is philosophical, saying: "Obviously I famously failed to complete Signet, but then completing deals is easy if you pay too much." Ronald Cohen, Apax chairman, said of his departure: "In our industry, people do make a lot of money, and their objectives do change."

Alchemy duly followed, although whether Moulton will transmute the base metals of AG Stanley and others into golden investments remains to be seen. Challenged about the mythical process, he snapped: "If you do it in a nuclear reactor, it is quite feasible." He read chemistry at Lancaster University, lending some conviction to his claims.

Moulton set out to make investments of £2 million to £20 million at a time, raising about £100 million or so a year from fewer than ten investors, including Bank of America and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. He has made 15 or 16 transatlantic trips since January. His other backers include United Bank of Kuwait, Merseyside Pension Fund and British Aerospace, along with Chase Venture Partners, in which Jeff Walker is a longstanding contact.

Alchemy has assembled an impressive team, including Martin Bolland, the former chief executive of the Princess and Metropole hotel chains. A recent catch is Eric Walters, one-time chief executive of the retailing operation of Grand Metropolitan, who went on to work with Moulton at Schroders. The Alchemy partners work on one floor around a central area, making for a sociable working environment.

Alchemy has a ten-strong industry advisory board, including Brandon Gough, former chairman of Coopers & Lybrand, for which Moulton worked as a manager from 1973 to 1981. He worked initially in insolvency, gaining useful insights into how not to run a company, and later crossed into mergers and acquisitions (M&A), winning a posting to New York.

Others on Alchemy's advisory board include Jacques Margry, former chairman and chief executive of Parker Pen, one of Moulton's most successful buyouts, and Nicola Foulston, chief executive of Brands Hatch Leisure, another Moulton-led deal.

Moulton is pleased with the way that Alchemy is going. He says: "I could not be more delighted. We started on January 20, and have four, possibly five, deals on the books. We've raised the equivalent of £400 million in very short order." He has no regrets about moving on from Apax, saying: "I very much enjoy working in a smaller environment."

Often abrasive in his dealings, Moulton rose to prominence in the City just as the bull run of the Eighties was gathering pace. Coopers led to Citicorp, the US investment bank, for which he continued in New York before returning to London to run the UK venture capital arm. He was later headhunted by J Henry Schroder Wagg, one of the City's top merchant banks, which was intent on building a venture capital arm.

While still in his early thirties, Moulton rapidly established Schroder Ventures as a powerful force in UK management buyouts, leading the $100 million (£62 million) buyout of Parker Pen from its American parent, and heading the buyout consortium that bid for Land Rover, until the Government decided to remove the For Sale sign.

Moulton resigned as managing partner of Schroder Ventures in February 1994, in what was put down to a disagreement over strategy. It was said that Schroders had tried to impose tighter controls on its venture capital arm, threatening to cramp Moulton's style. The same theme emerged on Moulton's departure from Apax. Described as one of the industry's brightest, if maverick, deal-makers, he ascribed his departure to a need for "more flexibility and independence of action".

Never one to mince his words, he recently claimed to have created more than 100 millionaires — himself included. The winners include Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB Mining, which was created through a Moulton-led deal, and is currently embroiled in controversy over the Asfordby colliery in Leicestershire. Others to benefit include Chris Evans, founder of Chiroscience, the biotech group, and Barry Warwick of the Old English Pub Company.

Alchemy recently invested £3 million of equity in Phoenix Computer, a maintenance company that has IBM as its biggest client. It has invested the same again in the AG Stanley business.

Moulton once described himself as "one of the oldest survivors in the trade", saying that his best personal gain from a deal was "in the low million pound double figures".

He added: "I have created 110 millionaires, 20 of them venture capitalists, including myself."

With Alchemy, Moulton has deliberately set out to target "difficult deals" — and none is more difficult than a chain of loss-making DIY and home furnishings shops. With FADS and Homestyle, he is thought likely to focus on the bigger out-of-town sites, getting rid of the troublesome high street locations. Frequent trips to Cheshire appear inevitable — lunching and telephone calls allowing. There could be gold in it yet.

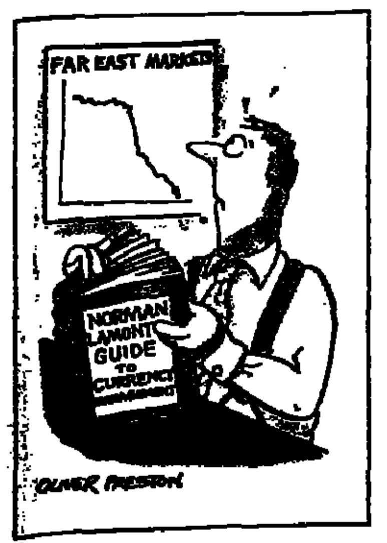
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Twice the Price

STUDENTS! Are you rebels or robots? Either way, Price Waterhouse has the job for you. Free spirits stepping on to the Tube at Embankment — after an interview with nearby Coopers & Lybrand, perhaps? — are met with an advert from Waterhouse's SAP subsidiary: "All our consultants work in exactly the same way: their way." Brainwashed clones? Bean counters? Not Price Waterhouse. Lest this approach intimidates the less individualistic graduate, another net has been cast at Bank station: "All our consultants work in exactly the same way: in a team." Courtesy of Price Waterhouse.

Spookily, the accountant took several days to admit to the existence of this parallel advertising campaign. So why the strange similiarity? Because their specially assembled focus groups — yes, focus groups, even in accountancy these days — told them that's what today's kids go for. So they are only obeying orders . . .

● *A MORE imaginative marketing team can be found at Cable & Wireless. One of its advertising men was overheard fantasising over running a mock BT television advert. Little girl asks: "Why are my Daddy's phone bills so high?" Or a shot of Sir Iain Vallance stepping out of a taxi while the girl muses: "Why is that man making so much money?" Not fair, of course, and doomed never to be made. But it* would *be funny.*



Hacked off

GOATEE BEARDS, as well as being a symbol of time-warped fashion values, my younger friends tell me, are a good way to identify dishonest computer programmers. This from Deloitte & Touche, whose team of "forensic" software detectives led by a Serious Fraud Office staffer have warned of cyber thieves who walk off with company secrets by hacking through the Internet. "Think about it," Deloitte's clients are warned. "That chap from the Internet Service Provider with the goatee beard and the doubtful taste in waistcoats who installed a router in your computer room . . . how much does he know?" They sure know how to sniff out villains at the SFO.

Shades of Leeds

THE Leeds and the Halifax may have merged two years ago, but the Leeds name, expunged from memory by the bank, lives on somewhere. It is visible from the restaurant on the top floor of the new Harvey Nichols in Leeds. As you munch on your Thai fishcakes, you stare out on to the old society's head office and the once proud Leeds Permanent logo, a reminder of the time when that city put thrift above Prada. But even this last crumbling remnant of a society founded in 1848 will disappear when the Halifax disposes of the building. Only difficulty of access has preserved the letters until now.

Chateau thrift

RICHARD LAMBERT, the *Financial Times* editor now based in New York, has started in stern style. The five-strong bureau there was invited out to dinner on his arrival a while back, I hear. No expense spared, the writers thought as the wine and conversation flowed. Too true; only they were paying, because when Lambert called for the bill he carefully divided it six ways.

● *THE awesome combination of Posh Spice, Baby Spice, the other three whose names I can't remember and the Football Association Premier League have lined up against a small perfume and cosmetics firm that is claimed to be producing goods bearing the names Spicy Power, Spice Girls and, in something of a non sequitur, Premier League. A High Court writ alleges passing off and wants damages. A pity one of the five isn't called Old Spice. They could have cleaned up.*

Mushy MPs

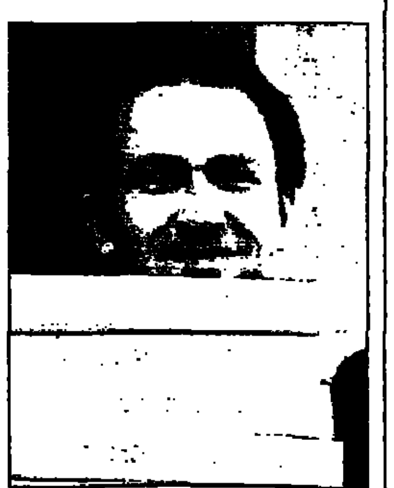
DAVID TAYLOR, MP for North West Leicestershire backing the campaign to save the Asfordby coal mine, has taken good-humoured umbrage at my suggestion that just because he drives a VW Golf with personalised number plates and arrived in Parliament after the last election, he must by definition be new Labour — and so doesn't know his mushy peas from his avocado mousse. He definitely espouses old Labour principles, he tells me.

So is new Labour a term of abuse in some sections of the party, therefore? "It's a label. Like all labels, sometimes it can be an accurate description, but in my case it's not," he says. "We're a mushy peas area rather than an avocado area — I don't think I've ever tasted avocado" — so neatly dissociating himself from the Mandelson wing of the party. Oh, and the car belongs to his wife.

Luke's gospel

JUST as well Luke Johnson, the entrepreneur behind Pizza Express and the last-but-one would-be saviour of the *Sunday Business*, is on holiday in the US. He is the target of a vitriolic attack in the newly revived *Business Age*, which is clearly continuing where the magazine left off before its refinancing. And courting a serious libel suit, because Johnson is not of the forgive and forget persuasion — he once displayed a serious sense of humour failure when I teased him about his hyperactive career. I will not risk repeating too many of the *Business Age* accusations, but they relate to his conduct as main shareholder of the *Sunday Business*, and a slight tendency — here I paraphrase — to fly off the handle. "Maybe it's a good job he's out of the country," muses a colleague.

MARTIN WALLER


Luke Johnson: a tendency to fly off the handle?

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Far East worries batter Chartered and HSBC

STANDARD CHARTERED, the international banking group, came under the hammer after becoming the latest casualty of the crisis in Far East financial markets.

Goldman Sachs International, the US securities house, has downgraded its recommendation for Standard from "market performer" to "market underperformer".

Standard responded to the move with a further fall of 47½p to 826½p, stretching its two-day deficit to 149½p. In the past two days it has seen £1.4 billion wiped from its £9.5 billion stock market price tag.

David Townsend, at Goldmans, says the price has further to fall and has set a target of below 800p. "I've not reduced my numbers, yet. But the risks are growing. Six months ago we would have asked what risks? The Hong Kong currency is now being protected by rising interest rates. Risks are rising and that should be priced into the stock."

NatWest Securities said the worries about the Far East had been overdone, while rival Societé Générale Strauss Turnbull rates Standard a "long-term buy".

On Thursday, Goldman also lowered its recommendation for **HSBC** to "market underperformer". The shares fell further by 40½p to £19.20½, taking the fall of the past two days to 191p. It earns less than 20 per cent of its profits in the Far East, but it is the biggest constituent of the Hang Seng index.

The rest of the banking sector showed only modest falls, reflecting the downturn elsewhere. Takeover hopeful **Abbey National** dropped 7½p to 830p, **Barclays** 8p to £14.12½, **Lloyds TSB** 1½p to 723p, and **Royal Bank of Scotland** 6p to 586p.

The market recovered some of its composure after sharp falls earlier in the week. Prices opened sharply lower, reflecting the continuing sell-off overnight in Asian markets. They closed well off the bottom after the Dow Jones industrial average steadied itself, in spite of an opening loss of almost 90 points after a sell-off among US Treasury bonds on buoyant new home sales figures and the Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index.

The FTSE 100 index, down 60.2 at its low of the day, eventually reduced the deficit to 27.9 at 4,817.5 in thin trading that saw a total of 675 million shares change hands. It stretches the fall on the week to 83.6.

The utilities provided a useful prop to investors as they stood out with some useful gains in difficult conditions. **National Power** led the way higher with a rise of 11p at 568p, while **PowerGen** put on 3p at 781½p. **South West Water** 10p at 811½p, Severn Trent 5p at 877½p, **Thames Water** 4p at 792½p and **BG** 4½p at 270p.

Grand Metropolitan fell 10p to 566½p and **Guinness** shed 12p at 546½p as the two faced up to the prospect of further opposition to their proposed merger. The European Commission meets next week to take a look at the deal.

Fresh speculative buying enabled **Rank Group** to move against the trend, ending the day 4½p better at 353½p. Once again there is talk of a bid soon from **Bass**, the brewer, ½p firmer at 827p. Even if a bid is ruled out, hopes are high that a share buyback is in the offing.

Asda was the heaviest traded share among the top 100, with 37 million changing hands as the price finished 1½p lighter at 144¾p after going ex-dividend earlier in the week. It seems most of the trading was between marketmakers in an attempt to iron out a few open positions. Elsewhere in the sector, **J Sainsbury** finished 5p lower at 431½p, **Safeway** 1½p at 375p, and **Tesco** 4p at 409p.

Burmah Castrol, headed by Jonathan Fry, chief executive, was a weak market, falling 30p to £10.29½ ahead of half-year figures on Monday. Brokers are becoming increasingly worried about the impact of a strong pound on what should be a relatively solid performance from the group. They are forecasting net income of between £67 million and £70 million. That compares with a figure of £67.7 million for the corresponding period. Merrill Lynch, the broker, points out that sterling has risen more than 10 per cent year-on-year — equivalent to a similar increase in profits.

A profits warning left AIM-listed **Selector** 10½p lower on the day at 49½p. The company says delays in production of its patented FOB-Stop valve will leave a dent in profits. Firm orders for 100,000 units are already on the order books.

On Demand Information, the electronic publisher, saw its shares hit another low with a fall of 2p to 8p after hitting shareholders with a triple whammy of bad news. Graham Poulter, chairman and founder, is quitting, the company will not meet its breakeven target for next year and may be sold anyway.

TLG, the lighting group hived off from Thorn a few years back, mustered a rise of 3p at 106½p on talk that **Wassall**, the industrial conglomerate, might spend some of its cash mountain bidding for the business. Wassall ended the day all square at 311½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Opening falls among US Treasury bonds saw early gains on the London bond market whittled away to close virtually unchanged.

The sell-off in New York followed publication of that bullish Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index, which helped to revive fears that the economy was starting to overheat.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt closed unaltered at £114½ in modest trading.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was unmoved at £111⁹⁄₁₆, while among shorter dated issues Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 was also steady at £101⁵⁄₁₆.

☐ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average shaved its losses in morning trade as it recovered from a sell-off triggered by turmoil in foreign stock markets and strong economic data. By midday the Dow was 27.18 points down at 7,667.25.

Jonathan Fry, left, and Brian Hardy, finance director, of Burmah Castrol, down 30p ahead of half-year figures

Shield Diagnostics rose 5p to 557½p. Next week the company **makes a series of presentations to European investors in London, Zurich and Milan. Top of the agenda will be its AFT heart diagnosis system, which it is hoped will receive approval from the US Food and Drug Administration within the next few months.**

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
BT	399½p	-36½p	Profit taking
Eurocopy	34½p	-23½p	Profits warning
Astec (BSR)	127p	-33p	Figures disappoint
Rank Group	353½p	+7½p	Bid speculation
Kalamazoo	80p	+4½p	Reynolds & Reynolds takes stake
Securicor	265p	-17p	Management changes
HSBC	£19.20	-187p	Falling Asian markets
Standard Chartered	826½p	-182½p	Asian fallout
Burmah Castrol	£10.29	-57p	Nervous ahead of figures

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 7667.25 (-27.18)
S&P Composite .... 902.69 (-0.98)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 18229.42 (-222.03)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 14135.25 (-740.85)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 868.29 (-8.98)

Sydney:
AO .... 2593.00 (-38.30)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 3906.03 (-67.62)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1805.64 (-10.98)

Brussels:
General .... 13214.49 (-1.65)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2770.49 (-57.92)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1134.80 (-3.60)

London:
FT 30 .... 3102.0 (-15.5)
FTSE 100 .... 4817.5 (-27.9)
FTSE 250 .... 4603.4 (-18.0)
FTSE 350 .... 2327.8 (-12.7)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 2518.21 (-42.99)
FTSE All-Share .... 2276.72 (-11.87)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2299.86 (-7.07)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 125.88 (+0.10)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 96.63 (-0.02)
Bargains 40866
SEAQ Volume 697.4m
US$ .... 1.6215 (+0.0068)
German Mark .... 2.9203 (+0.0200)
Exchange Index .... 102.2 (+0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU ....
£:SDR 1.1851
RPI .... 157.5 Jul (3.3%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 156.4 Jul (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofagasta Cv Uts	402½	...
Bristol & West Prf	108¼	...
Cammell Laird	136	...
EMI B	115	...
Fairfield Ents	117½	...
GR Holdings	55	...
Galen Holdings	239½	+ 4
Helicon Pubslg	96½	...
Ionica Group	340	+ 9
Kingfisher Leisure	175½	...
Landround	92½	...
Reabourne Merlin	108	...
SBS Group	110½	- 2
Severn Trent B	33½	...
Stentor Warrants	49	...
Style Holdings	85	...
Thorn B	20½	...
Viglen Technology	63	- ½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dixon Mtrs n/p (235)	29	...
Golden Land n/p (21)	2	...
Logica n/p (605)	162½	...
Pendragon n/p (265)	3½	+ 1¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Orange .... 223p (+15p)
BTR .... 218p (+11½p)
Jarvis .... 250½p (+11p)
Henlys .... 438½p (+19p)
Photobition .... 682½p (+25p)
Sherriff Hldgs .... 330p (+61p)
Andrew Sykes .... 565p (+15p)
Vodafone .... 317p (+7½p)
Bank Scotland .... 416p (+7p)
Legal & Gen .... 452½p (+6p)
Smithkline .... 535½p (+10p)

FALLS:
Gaskell .... 285p (-15p)
Therp Anti Inc .... 230p (-10p)
Real Time .... 261p (-10½p)
Royal & Sun Al .... 500p (-18p)
REA .... 329p (-11p)
Aus New Z .... 443p (-21¼p)
Gr Portland .... 208p (-8½p)
Scotia .... 315p (-10p)
Next .... 742p (-22½p)
Danka Bs Sys .... 720p (-17½p)
Ranger .... 579½p (-14p)

Closing Prices Page 37

TEMPUS

The auditor signs off

THE City values Bob Bauman's contribution to BTR at £460 million — equivalent to 11½p on the manufacturing group's forlorn share price. The institutions are finally being offered a credible chairman to replace Elwyn "Low Mileage" Eilledge, the former head of BTR's auditors and widely thought to lack the clout for such a challenging role. Mr Eilledge claims "restructuring the board" as his main achievement. In less polite language: getting rid of the BTR old-timers who had slipped into non-executive directorships. With the consistency of a good auditor he has taken the strategy to its conclusion by removing himself.

The City's delight at Mr Bauman's arrival at BTR may not be shared by finance director Kathleen O'Donovan who will be even less pleased to learn that some institutions want Mr Bauman to show who's in charge by sacking her — not because she can't make the numbers add up but because of her alleged strategic naivety.

More importantly, Mr Bauman must use the skills he showed in creating SmithKline Beecham in making more of what laughably passes for focus at BTR. Four "major global groups" and three "smaller global and regional groups" still look a mess. The rationalisation leaves a proliferation of companies run by managers much more familiar with paring costs than with investing for growth.

BTR's shares seem to have found their level, shuffling between 190p and 210p. From 218p, the downside looks modest. But, at least until next month's results, it is too soon to buy for recovery.

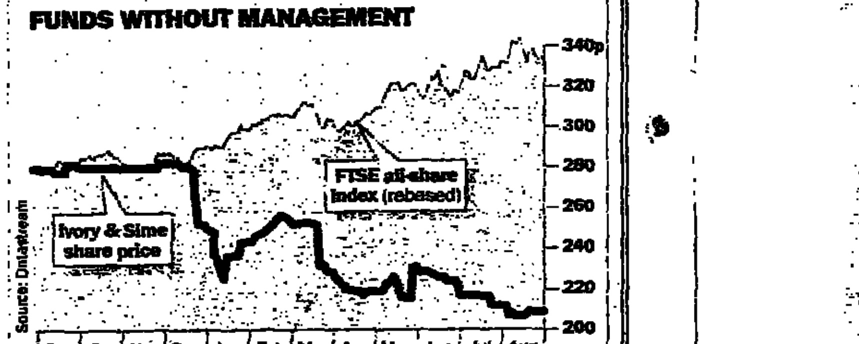
Ivory & Sime

IN ITS own rather coy words, Ivory & Sime intends to "examine strategic opportunities to grow assets under management", but the stock market reckons the business has been on the block for some time.

Rumours have been rife about talks with ABN Amro, and Fortis, a Dutch/Belgian insurer, since Ivory suffered a bout of staff defections leading to the loss of almost £500 million of BAA pension money. Yet, no bidders have emerged, not even from friendly quarters within the Edinburgh investment community. This does not bode well for the ultimate price. At 2 per cent of funds under management, Ivory is not cheap, given that its business has been contracting.

The irony is that Ivory & Sime's investment performance was relatively good last year. However, the collapse of funds under management from £4.3 billion to £3.2 billion leaves a hole in its revenue account and the lemming-like behaviour of pension fund trustees ensures that any setback will be compounded with other defections. This is unfortunate as it reinforces the concentration of power within a few institutions — MAM, Schroders, PDFM — whose performance could not be described as sparkling. A healthy band of boutique fund managers is what the industry needs, but those brave trustees who make the appointments appear to be more concerned with self-protection.

FUNDS WITHOUT MANAGEMENT



Source: Datastream

C&W

CABLE & WIRELESS has been a hive of activity since Dick Brown, the gregarious American, became chief executive a year ago. Peripheral investment and joint ventures were ditched, Mercury Communications was integrated with three cable companies to create Cable & Wireless Communications and, most recently, an agreement was struck with Beijing to swap equity in Hongkong Telecom, its most valuable business, for greater access to the vast Chinese telecoms market.

While the strategy has been sound, the execution leaves something to be desired. C&W, it appears, has taken on too much, too soon, and is in danger of stretching itself beyond its management capabilities. Cable & Wireless Communications, not surprisingly, is off to a rocky start. The company is even shirking the development of its own pay-per-view service because it is too busy cobbling together four companies. In Australia, C&W's Optus subsidiary is losing a fortune trying to marry a pay-TV service to its phone network. Meanwhile, there is growing belief that C&W's access to the Chinese market will fall short of expectations.

C&W, under Mr Brown, has outperformed the market. But do not be surprised if earnings come under pressure as all his projects, which looked so good on paper, prove difficult to build.

Hotels

BUSINESS is booming in the hotel world, but the City is unenthused. Shares in Thistle and Jarvis both trade below last year's float prices. Millennium & Copthorne's recent excellent results caused a minor flurry of activity, but for the most part there is a breathtaking lack of interest in the leisure sector in general and hotel stocks in particular.

A good bid battle might get things moving. In the aftermath of Granada's bid for Forte, a host of flotations and takeovers ensued. Jarvis's recent approach to Hanover International is worth watching in case it turns hostile, and rumours persist that Prince al-Waleed bin Talal is casting his eye over the stately assets of Cliveden. But neither is remotely in the same league. Ironically, Granada is partly to blame for the malaise, having jacked up room rates and encouraged others to follow suit. Rates have continued to go up on the back of the buoyant economy, but the dream scenario of good occupancy and high room rates cannot go on forever. Sooner or later, higher interest rates on discretionary spending and the effect of sterling on foreign business will take their toll. There will also be extra capacity to contend with.

The temptation to check in should be resisted.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Sep	1126-1125	Dec	1224-1223
Dec	1167-1166	Mar	1239-1238
Mar	1182-1181	May	1245-1243
May	1190-1189	Jul	1270-1250
Jul	1202-1200		
Sep	1211-1208		Volume: 24450

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	unq	May	1590 SLR
Nov	1585-1581	Jul	1590 SLR
Jan	1561 SLR	Sep	1590 SLR
Mar	1580-1570		Volume: 6671

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		May	327.5-26.3
Spot: 348.8		Aug	326.5-24.0
Oct	327.6-27.2	Oct	321.0-18.1
Dec	326.0-25.5	Dec	321.0-17.1
Mar	329.0-29.3		Volume: 3303

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on August 28

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	73.81	114.71	101.17
(+/-)	+7.23	+1.62	-0.28
Eng/Wales	73.81	114.81	100.25
(+/-)	+7.23	+1.31	-0.03
(%)	+55.0	+34.0	+10.0
Scotland:	unq	114.12	104.62
(+/-)		+2.91	-0.77
(%)		+4.0	-2.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.30	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Oct)	18.55	n/c
Brent 15 day (Nov)	18.65	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	19.65	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	19.75	+0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	209 (+1)	211 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	613 (+3)	164 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	90 (n/c)	94 (+1)
Naphtha	183 (-2)	187 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Sep	164.25-64.50	Dec	170.25-70.50
Oct	166.25-66.75	Jan	171.50-72.25
Nov	168.25-66.75		Vol: 13244

BRENT (6.00pm)

Oct	18.50-18.52	Jan	18.76-18.79
Nov	18.62-18.64	Feb	18.71-18.75
Dec	18.73-18.75		Vol: 11273

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	85.75	Sep	80.00
Nov	87.35	Nov	82.50
Jan	89.35	Jan	84.50
Mar	91.35	Mar	86.50
May	93.25	May	86.75
Volume: 665		Volume: 92	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Nov	unq	62.0
Mar		94.0
Apr	108.0	111.6
		Volume: 33

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Sep 59.75-60.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Aug 97	unq	—	1317
Sep 97	1430	1410	1430
Oct 97	1560	1515	1530
Jan 98	1570	1565	1535
Vol: 90 lots		Open Interest: 3092	

Index 1530 +3

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Cash:	3mth:	Rudolf Wolff Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2149.0-2150.0	2149.0-2150.0	1072150
Lead ($/tonne)	630.00-630.50	642.00-642.50	276925
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1651.0-1652.0	1495.0-1496.0	695150
Tin ($/tonne)	5375.0-5385.0	5415.0-5420.0	21100
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1608.5-1609.0	1628.0-1628.5	3380425
Nickel ($/tonne)	6580.0-6582.0	6660.0-6661.0	100278

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
Alld Dom	460	23	34	42	13½	21	33
(*469½)	500	7½	17	25½	37½	54	57½
ASDA	140	9	13½	16½	4	5½	7½
(*145)	160	1	5	7½	16	17	18½
Boots	750	57	90	—	[illegible]	25½	—
(*797)	800	30½	59	70	36½	43	47½
Br Airways	600	51½	70	[illegible]	[illegible]	21½	23½
(*638)	650	21½	42½	56	29	41	45
BP	850	38½	60½	77½	23	38½	43½
(*862½)	900	18	27	55	50½	65	68½
Br Steel	160	15½	19½	24	4	7½	11
(*172)	190	5	10	14½	12	17½	19½
C & W	500	51	67	79½	9	18	23
(*537½)	550	22½	39½	55	27½	39	45½
CU	700	69	95	104	16½	36	45½
(*743½)	750	38½	66	79½	27½	59	69½
ICI	950	70½	104	116	16½	51½	46½
(*994½)	1000	42	76	87	30½	53	68½
Land Sec	850	61	79½	97	7	16½	21½
(*902½)	900	27	49	66½	26	35	41
M & S	550	44	57	69½	[illegible]	15½	18½
(*582½)	600	15	29½	41½	27	36	47½
Nat West	750	64	90	114	22	44½	58
(*787½)	800	36½	74	94	42½	66½	82
Safeway plc	360	23	33	41	6½	13½	17½
(*374½)	390	7½	16	25½	21	29	32½
Sainsbury	430	22½	34½	44	11½	18	22
(*438½)	460	9½	17	25	33½	40	43½
Shell	400	24	31	—	10	15	—
(*415)	417	15	26	—	16	26	—
Smkl Bch	525	31	50	61½	17	29	40
(*549½)	550	19	35	46½	30½	42	49
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1900	101½	170½	211	37	87½	100
(*1947½)	2000	53½	117½	158½	96	136½	148
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
BAT Ind	500	37½	58	67	15	29½	39½
(*517½)	550	15½	35	45½	42	62	62½
Vodafone	300	23	32½	39½	6½	13	16
(*315)	330	8	19	25	21½	25	31
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Grnd Met	550	30	57	68	17½	26	32
(*567)	600	17	33	44	45	52	58
Ladbroke	240	26	32½	36½	6½	9½	12
(*254)	260	15	21½	26	15	17	21
Utd Bisc	200	12½	19	21	6½	9½	11
(*209½)	220	4½	10	12	19	19	22½

	Series	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
BAA	550	22½	40	47½	17½	25½	28
(*562)	600	5	17½	25	49½	55½	57½
Thames W	750	57½	74	88	10	21	26
(*792½)	800	27	49	60	27½	42	48
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
BTR	200	20½	27	32½	7	10½	13½
(*219)	220	12	20½	22½	16	20	23½
Br Aero	1400	97½	129½	155½	37	53	67
(*1459)	1450	64	102	128½	69½	75½	89½
Br Telcm	385	33½	39	—	14½	25	—
(*399)	425	15½	20	—	35½	48½	—
Cadbury	550	39	54	63½	15½	21	29½
(*572)	600	16	30	37½	40½	47	55½
Guinness	500	56	64½	72½	8½	13	18
(*546)	550	25	34	43	29½	30½	38
GEC	360	34½	41	50½	7½	13½	16½
(*382½)	390	17½	25½	35	19	26	30
Hanson	280	23½	32	37½	8	11½	16½
(*296)	300	12½	21½	27	17	20½	25½
LASMO	240	25½	33	35½	5	9	11
(*256½)	260	14	21½	24½	12½	17	19½
LucasVarity	190	20½	26½	31	4½	6	7½
(*196)	200	9½	15	19½	12	14½	16
Pilkingtn	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(*140½)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prudential	600	39½	59	70½	37	41	51
(*607)	650	19	37½	49	68½	69½	79½
Redland	280	21½	29	35	9	15½	21
(*290)	300	11½	19½	26	20	25½	32
R-Royce	220	22	29½	32½	9	11½	14
(*232)	240	12	19½	22½	17½	21	24
Tesco	390	29	40½	50½	11	16	21
(*407)	420	14½	26	35	25½	30	35½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4817)

	4700	4750	4800	4850	4900	4950
Calls						
Sep	190½	155½	127	98	76	55
Oct	246½	210½	180½	157½	132½	111½
Nov	301	270½	241½	212	194½	163
Dec	346	314½	285½	251½	234½	201½
Jun	494½	—	434	—	378½	—
Puts						
Sep	61½	77	100½	122	152½	190
Oct	103	123½	145	114	196	227
Nov	140	160½	181½	202	227	256
Dec	161	181½	202	221½	248½	277½
Jun	241½	—	280	—	326	...

	Series	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
Abby Nat	800	53½	89½	101	25½	44	56
(*826)	850	29	64	75	50	69½	80
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1400	73	136	157	57½	95½	113
(*1409)	1450	51	111½	132	84	121	137½
Natl Pwr	550	35	51½	62	14½	24	28½
(*568½)	600	12	29	37½	40½	49½	54½
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Glaxo Well	1200	69½	112½	134½	32½	57	74
(*1225½)	1250	44½	86½	108	56½	79½	97
HSBC	1900	91½	171	216½	69½	124½	151½
(*1908)	2000	49	123	166½	125½	174½	204½
Reuter	600	41½	63½	75	11½	23½	34½
(*624)	650	17	39	49½	36	48	59
Royal & Sun	500	24	44	51½	20½	32	39
(*502)	550	7½	23	29½	53	61½	68
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Blue Circ	360	36½	47½	52	7½	11	16
(*386)	390	19	31	35	20	22½	29½
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Kingfshr	700	50½	66½	79	21½	31	37
(*724)	750	29½	42½	53½	45	53½	61½
	Series	Jun			Jun		
Br Gas	240	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	260	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Series	Sep	Dec	Mar	Sep	Dec	Mar
Dixons	650	14	47½	61	16	37½	44½
(*650)	700	3½	26	37½	52½	67	70½
EMI Group	548	22½	44½	57½	12½	27	33
(*555)	575	10½	31½	44	27	40½	46½
Tarmac	110	10	13	17	0½	3½	5
(*119)	120	3½	7½	12	3½	6	9½
Hillsdwn	160	5½	—	—	—	—	—
(*161½)	180	0½	—	—	19	—	—
Lonrho	120	7	10½	14	2	4½	7
(*123½)	130	2	6	9	7½	10	13
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	290	20	29½	34½	3	6½	8½
(*298½)	300	6	17	27	8	13½	16½
Lloyds TSB	700	31	68	86	19½	42½	52
(*721)	750	10½	44½	62½	47½	69½	75
Scot Pwr	420	22½	30	45½	4	15	20
(*435)	460	5½	21	26½	26½	35½	39½
Unilever	1700	41	101½	145½	29½	76	94
(*1704)	1800	8	59	100½	102	131½	149

August 29, 1997 Tot: 35039 Calls: 16914 Puts: 19108 FTSE Calls: 2508 Puts: 4901
*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 198426	Sep 97 Dec 97	114-21 114-12	114-24 114-13	114-10 113-31	114-16 114-06	42226 15053
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest 298120	Sep 97 Dec 97	102.48 101.55	102.48 101.57	102.06 101.20	102.19 101.30	154560 22251
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 112025	Sep 97 Dec 97	135.80 108.00	135.93 108.01	135.35 107.56	135.58 107.76	41692 9673
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97 Dec 97	127.61 126.85	127.72 126.94	127.60 126.85	127.71 126.94755	2170
Three Mth Sterling Previous open interest 664425	Sep 97 Dec 97 Mar 98	92.70 92.52 92.48	92.70 92.53 92.49	92.68 92.51 92.46	92.69 92.51 92.47	4428 7699 7711
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1677209	Sep 97 Dec 97	96.67 96.48	96.67 96.48	96.64 96.45	96.66 96.46	22887 29469
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest 393259	Sep 97 Dec 97	93.23 93.54	93.23 93.54	93.20 93.50	93.22 93.53	5060 13408
Three Mth Euroyen	Dec 97 Mar 98				99.42 99.36	0 0
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 168195	Sep 97 Dec 97	98.54 98.28	98.54 98.31	98.50 98.23	98.53 98.27	3049 8736
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 39971	Sep 97 Dec 97	95.61 95.50	95.62 95.50	95.61 95.49	95.61 95.50	776 541
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 79095	Sep 97 Dec 97	4840.0 4877.0	4848.0 4885.0	4760.0 4864.5	4824.0 4895.0	10795 224

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 6½ Week fixed: 7⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 6¹⁵⁄₁₆ : 3 mth 6⅞ . Sell: 2 mth 6¹¹⁄₁₆ : 3 mth: 6¹¹⁄₁₆ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7-6²⁹⁄₃₂	7⅛-6³¹⁄₃₂	7⅛-7	7⁵⁄₁₆-7³⁄₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	7³⁄₁₆-7⅛	7³⁄₁₆-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	7⁷⁄₁₆-7⅜	7⁹⁄₁₆-7½
Interbank:	7³⁄₁₆-7⅛	7³⁄₁₆-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	7⁷⁄₁₆-7⅜	7⁹⁄₁₆-7½

Overnight: open 7⅛, close 6½ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	7⅛	n/a	7⅛	7⅜	7½
Sterling CDs:	7⅛-7¹⁄₁₆	7³⁄₁₆-7⅛	7¼-7³⁄₁₆	7⁷⁄₁₆-7⅜	7⁹⁄₁₆-7½
Dollar CDs:	5.56	n/a	5.60	5.72	5.92
Building Society CDs:	7⅛-7¹⁄₁₆	7³⁄₁₆-7⅛	7¼-7³⁄₁₆	7⁷⁄₁₆-7⅜	7⁹⁄₁₆-7½

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £714m allotted: £200m: Bids: £98.27% received: 80%: Last week: £98.295% received: 90%: Avge rate: £6.9241% last wk £6.8277%; Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5¼-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3¼-2¾
French Franc:	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1⅝	1⅝-1½	1⅝-⅞
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $324.40-324.70 Close: $324.40-324.90 High: $325.15-325.65
Low: $323.85-324.35 AM: $325.40 PM: $325.35

Krugerrand: $324.00-326.00 (£199.75-201.75)

Platinum: $409.00 (£252.25) Silver: $4.70 (£2.895) Palladium: $191.00 (£117.80)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for August 29	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2762-3.2891	3.2855-3.2875	1⅛-1pr	3⅛-3pr
Brussels	60.040-60.310	60.222-60.309	20-15pr	57-50pr
Copenhagen	11.077-11.122	11.113-11.120	⅝-¼pr	⅞-⅝pr
Dublin	1.0861-1.0938	1.0894-1.0917	11-5pr	30-23pr
Frankfurt	2.9085-2.9204	2.9185-2.9204	1-⅞pr	2⅞-2¾pr
Lisbon	295.24-296.47	296.19-296.47	⅞-⅝pr	1½-1⅛pr
Madrid	245.61-246.68	246.43-246.68	41-30pr	126-108pr
Milan	2848.2-2857.9	2854.5-2856.5	16pr-par	41-18pr
Montreal	2.2482-2.2544	2.2510-2.2526	0.72-0.68pr	1.43-1.36pr
New York	1.6188-1.6226	1.6215-1.6221	0.215-0.195pr	0.638-0.607pr
Oslo	12.034-12.095	12.081-12.095	⅝-⅜pr	1-⅝pr
Paris	9.7900-9.8397	9.8344-9.8397	3⅛-3pr	9⅛-8⅞pr
Stockholm	12.658-12.743	12.724-12.741	⅝-⅜pr	⅞-⅝pr
Tokyo	192.79-195.29	195.00-195.17	1⅛-1pr	3⅛-3⅛pr
Vienna	20.471-20.554	20.538-20.552	⅝-⅜pr	2-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.4036-2.4112	2.4057-2.4080	1⅝-1⅜pr	3⅝-3⅜pr

Source: Extel
Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3636-1.3646
Austria	12.67-12.68
Belgium (Com)	37.18-37.30
Canada	1.3889-1.3894
Denmark	6.8580-6.8625
France	6.0657-6.0667
Germany	1.8020-1.8030
Hong Kong	7.7470-7.7480
Ireland	1.4840-1.4860
Italy	1760.71-1763.71
Japan	120.43-120.48
Malaysia	2.9215-2.9245
Netherlands	2.0290-2.0295
Norway	7.4411-7.4431
Portugal	182.90-183.00
Singapore	1.5135-1.5155
Spain	152.20-152.25
Sweden	7.8564-7.8639
Switzerland	1.4890-1.4900

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6193-1.6220
Australia dollar	2.2079-2.2108
Bahrain dinar	0.6025-0.6165
Brazil real*	1.7585-1.7629
China yuan	13.251-13.551
Cyprus pound	0.8435-0.8625
Finland markka	8.6425-8.7835
Greece drachma	452.0-462.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.5362-12.5456
India rupee	58.39-59.69
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4865-0.4975
Malaysia ringgit	4.7305-4.7383
New Zealand dollar	2.5288-2.5331
Pakistan rupee	63.95 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8175-5.9525
Singapore dollar	2.4507-2.4554
S Africa rand (com)	7.5080-7.6770
U A E dirham	5.8700-6.0060

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	592	Ladbroke	1,200
ASDA Gp	37,100	Land Secs	1,200
Abbey Ntl	1,600	Legal & Gn	776
Allnce & Leic	2,200	Lloyds TSB	4,600
Allied Dom	1,100	LucasVarity	1,300
AB Foods	621	Marks Spr	2,800
BAA	1,500	Mercury Ast	718
BAT Inds	3,500	NatWst Bk	3,100
BG	7,700	Nat Grid	6,000
BOC	1,800	Nat Power	8,100
BP	5,500	Next	478
BSkyB	1,800	Orange	3,100
BTR	22,200	P & O	2,400
BT	30,200	Pearson	375
Bk of Scot	2,100	PowerGen	2,400
Barclays	2,600	Prudential	1,500
Bass	2,300	RMC	120
Blue Circle	2,800	Railtrack	1,200
Boots	2,400	Rank Group	6,900
BAe	1,500	Reckitt Col	779
BA	2,100	Reed Intl	2,900
British Land	3,100	Rentokil	2,100
Brit Steel	1,700	Reuters	1,900
Burmah Cstl	1,500	Rio Tinto	2,000
Cable Wire	5,400	Rolls Royce	6,300
Cadbury	1,000	Royal & Sun	3,900
Carlton Cms	546	Royal Bk Sct	1,400
Centrica	8,000	Safeway	1,700
Cm Union	2,600	Sainsbury	6,000
Dixons	1,300	Schroders	301
EMI	1,500	Scot & New	645
Energy Gp	1,900	Scot Power	2,000
Enterpr Oil	1,500	Svrn Trent	1,600
GKN	407	Shell Trans	10,200
GRE	1,700	Siebe	1,000
GUS	4,000	SmKl Bch	4,700
Gen Acc	1,100	Smiths Inds	212
Gen Elec	4,300	Std Chartd	14,000
Glaxo Well	2,800	TI Gp	1,300
Granada	2,600	Tate & Lyle	3,000
Grand Met	6,200	Tesco	1,900
Guinness	6,500	Thames W	416
HSBC	5,400	Tomkins	2,900
Halifax	2,300	Unilever	2,100
Hanson	562	Utd Utilities	597
Hays	1,000	Utd News	298
ICI	2,100	Vodafone	7,700
Imp Tob	342	Whitbread	967
Kingfisher	1,300	Wolseley	1,900
LASMO	5,200	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Aug 29 midday	Aug 28 close		Aug 29 midday	Aug 28 close
AMP Inc	50¼	50½	Edison Int	24¼	24½
AMR Corp	101¹³⁄₁₆	102½	Elect Data Sys	37⅛	37⅛
AT & T	38½	39½	Emerson Elec	53½	53⅞
Abbott Labs	59½	59½	Engelhard Corp	20½	20⅛
Advanced Micro	37⅜	38⅛	Enron Corp	38⅛	37¹⁵⁄₁₆
Aetna Life	95¹⁵⁄₁₆	96⅛	Entergy	25½	25¼
Ahmanson (HF)	51¼	51	Ethyl Corp	9⅛	9⅛
Air Prod & Chem	81¹¹⁄₁₆	81¹⁵⁄₁₆	Exxon	61¼	61½
AirTouch Comm	33⅝	33½	FMC Corp	83	84½
Albertson's	33½	34½	FPL Group	46½	46½
Alcan Aluminium	35⅛	35⅛	Federal Express	65½	65⅞
Allied Signal	82½	83½	Fifth Third Banc	58½	58⅞
Alum Co of Am	83⅛	84⅛	Fleet Finl Grp	64½	64⅛
Amerada Hess	58½	58½	Fluor Corp	56⅛	56⅛
Amer El Power	43½	43⅛	Ford Motor	43½	43⅛
Amer Express	78½	78⅛	Fort James	41¼	41⅞
Amer Genl Corp	47½	47½	Fortune Brands	34⅛	34⅛
Amer Home Pr	71⅛	71¼	Franklin Res	78	77⅞
Amer Intl	94½	95½	GTE Corp	44⅛	44½
Amer Stores	23½	23½	Gannett	96⅛	96
Amer Standard	47½	48	Gap Inc Del	43⅞	44⅛
Ameritech	62½	62⅛	Gen Dynamics	80½	80½
Amgen	49½	48½	Gen Electric	63⅛	62½
Amoco	94½	95½	Gen Mills	64⅞	65
Andrew Corp	25½	24⅞	Gen Motors	63½	63½
Anheuser-Busch	42½	42⅛	Gen Reinsurance	193⅛	194
Apple Computer	22	22	Gen Signal	43⅞	43½
Archer Daniels	21⅝	21⅛	Genuine Parts	30½	30⅛
Armco	6	6⅛	Georgia Pac	91½	91½
Armstrong Wrld	68½	68⅛	Gillette	83½	82½
Asarco	31⅛	31½	Glaxo Welle ADR	39½	39⅛
Atl Richfield	75⅛	75½	Goodrich (BF)	42⅛	42⅛
Atmel Corp	35½	35½	Goodyear Tire	61½	61½
Auto Data Pro	45⅛	45½	Grt Atl Pac Tea	25	25½
Avery Dennison	41½	41⅛	Great Lakes	46⅛	46½
Avon Products	64½	64½	Halliburton	47½	48½
Baker Hughes	42⅛	42½	Harcourt General	47⅞	47½
Baltim Gas & El	27⅛	27⅛	Heinz (HJ)	41⅞	41½
Banc One	53½	53⅞	Hercules	51½	51⅞
BankAmerica	66½	66⅛	Hershey Foods	54½	54½
Bank of NY	44½	44⅞	Hewlett Packard	60½	61
Bankers Tr NY	103	102⅛	Hilton Hotels	30⅛	30⅛
Barnett Banks	54⅞	54⅞	Home Depot	47½	47⅛
Bausch & Lomb	42½	41⅞	Homestake Mng	14	14
Baxter Intl	53⅛	54½	Honeywell	68⅛	68½
Becton Dickinson	48⅛	48⅛	Household Intl	110½	111½
Bell Atlantic	73½	73⅛	Houston Inds	20⅛	20½
BellSouth	43⅞	44½	Humana	23½	23⅞
Black & Decker	39⅛	41½	ITT Corp	63⅛	63⅛
Block (H&R)	39⅛	39½	Ikon Office	26	26
Boeing	54½	55½	Illinois Tool	48½	48½
Boise Cascade	39½	40½	IllNova	23	23⅛
Boston Scien	71½	71½	INCO	27⅛	27⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	75⅞	75⅛	Ingersoll Rand	60½	60
Browning Ferris	34⅞	34⅞	Inland Steel	21	20⅞
Brunswick	30½	31	Intel Corp	92½	92½
Burlington Nthn	91⅞	92⅛	IBM	100⅞	101½
CMS Energy Corp	35½	35⅞	Intl Flav & Fr	51⅞	52⅛
CPC Intl	88⅛	89⅛	Intl Paper	53½	53⅞
CSX	57⅛	59⅞	Johnson & Johnson	56½	57
Campbell Soup	47	47⅛	Kellogg	45⅛	45½
Carolina Pwr	33⅛	33⅛	Kerr-McGee	62⅛	61¹¹⁄₁₆
Case Corp	67	67½	Kimberly-Clark	48⅛	49
Caterpillar	57½	57⅞	Kmart	13⅞	13½
Central & SW	20½	20½	Knight-Ridder	50½	51⅛
Champion Intl	59⅞	60½	Lilly (Eli)	105½	102⅛
Chase Manhat	111⅝	112⅛	Limited Inc	22½	22⅛
Chevron Corp	77⅞	79½	Lincoln Nat	66½	66½
Chrysler	35⅛	35½	Litton	46½	47⅛
Chubb Corp	65⅞	65½	Liz Claiborne	45	45½
Cigna Corp	182½	182½	Lockheed Martin	104½	104⅛
Citicorp	127	128⅛	Louisiana Pac	22⅛	22⅛

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THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

ON THE RUN 31

As health cover rises, the elderly return to the NHS

WEEKEND MONEY

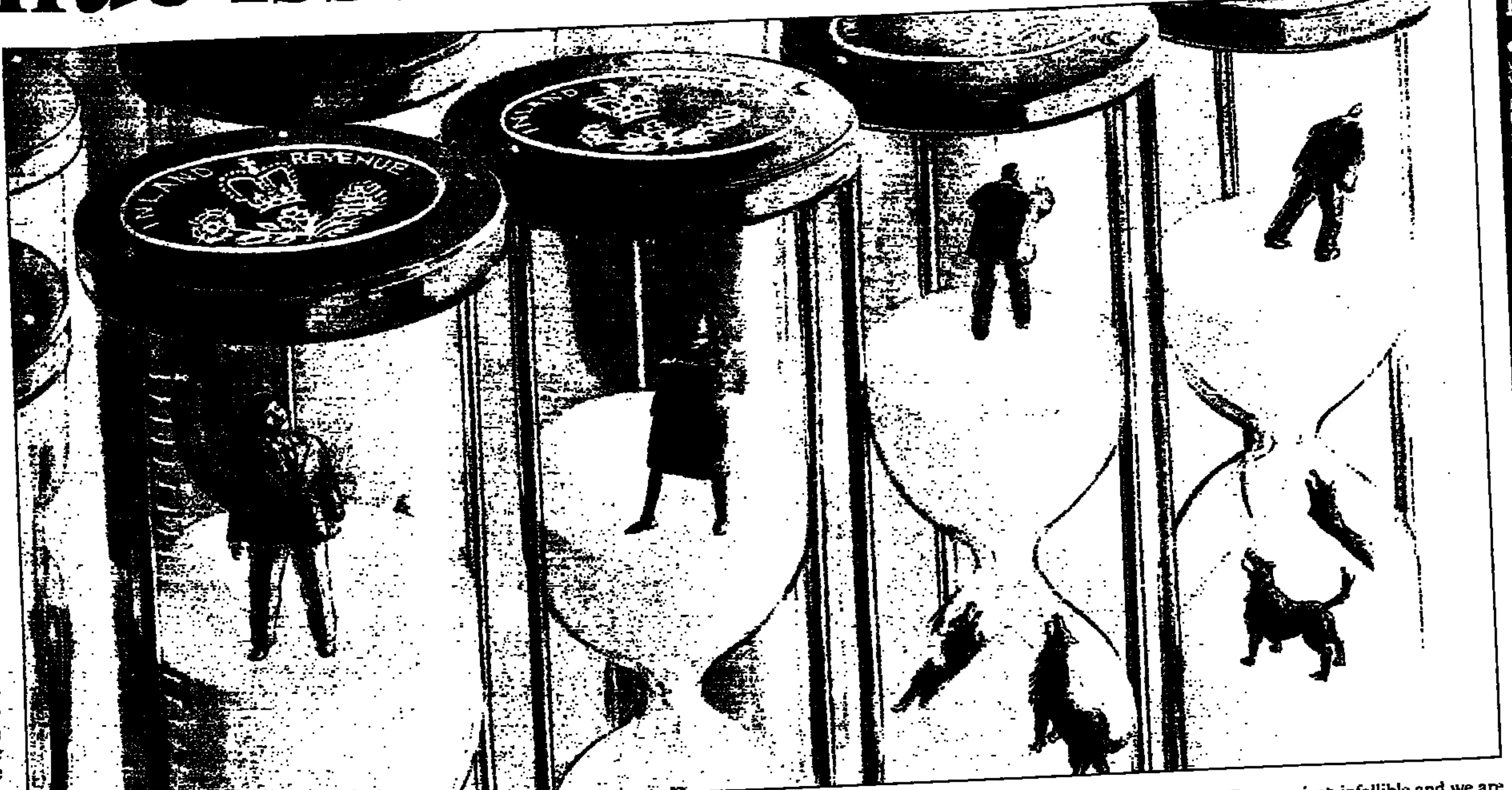
FIRST-TIME BLUES 35

Graduate loan fees may hit the whole housing market

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Six million taxpayers have just one month to file returns before incurring penalties, **Sara McConnell** reports

Revenue issues a four-week warning



ANGUS MEWSE

The Inland Revenue is planning a renewed onslaught on the six million taxpayers who have yet to file their returns under the new self-assessment system. Failure to file correctly and on time could potentially land taxpayers with penalties totalling more than £1 billion, says Mintel, the independent research group.

An advertising campaign featuring Hector the Inspector, the Revenue's smug cartoon taxman, will start next week, warning people that they have only a month to file their returns if they want the Revenue to work out their tax bill.

Only 2.7 million people out of the 8.5 million who received returns in April have so far sent them back. This is just half the number that is expected to ask the Revenue to do the sums rather than tackling the confusing maze of boxes and instructions in the tax calculation sheet. Accountants and advisers are preparing for a last-minute panic as the deadline approaches.

September 30 is the first big deadline for taxpayers filling in the new self-assessment tax returns for the 1996-97 tax year. Those prepared to work out their own tax have until January 31, 1998, when they must send a cheque for what they think they owe with the completed return. Those who have left the calculations to the Revenue will be sent a tax bill at the end of January, based on the figures they have supplied. This will also include the balance of any tax owed for 1996-97. Self-employed will also have to make their first payment on account for 1997-98.

The advertising campaign will aim to ram home the message to taxpayers that these deadlines will be taken seriously. Under the old system, no one bothered much as long as returns were in by the end of October following the tax year. There were no fixed penalties for late-filing and the only risk was that of interest on any unpaid tax. Now, for the first time, there will be a fixed penalty of £100 for filing your return after the final January deadline. If you have still not filed a 1996-97 return by the end of July 1998, you will pay another £100 fixed penalty. At the Revenue's discretion you could also face daily penalties of up to £60. On top of these you will pay interest on unpaid tax at the official rate of 8.5 per cent. If you do not pay what you owe by February 28, you will be billed for a surcharge of 5 per cent of the outstanding tax on top of interest and penalties.

Anyone sending in a return after September 30 but before January 31 will not pay a fixed penalty for failing to file but could risk incurring extra interest on unpaid tax. The Revenue said this week that anyone failing to file a complete return by September 30 could not rely on having their tax bill calculated by January 31. "If anyone sends in their return after September 30 we will work it out but we can't guarantee we can let them know how much they owe by January 31. So they may have to pay interest on late payments."

Mistakes in tax returns could also potentially land taxpayers with interest bills, particularly as the deadline nears, the Revenue says. An estimated 40 per cent of returns processed so far have contained mistakes with 6 per cent of returns so wrong they have had to be sent back. Anyone failing to respond by the deadline with the necessary corrections risks a penalty. The Revenue says those in this position should try to work out their tax with the calculation sheet.

Accountants also report that some Revenue staff working out tax bills are introducing mistakes when they key information from returns into their computers.

Ashley Deakin, chartered accountant and director of Tax Etc, the tax advisory service, says: "The Revenue isn't infallible and we are seeing errors coming back. For example, pension contributions have not been included in some cases." But taxpayers have difficulty spotting such errors because the final bill is not broken down, says Mr Deakin.

The Revenue says that people "don't want to be overwhelmed with a detailed breakdown." If they're concerned that something hasn't been included they can always ring their tax office".

BEAT THE DEADLINE

- Check the Revenue has sent you the relevant pages to fill in. You should have a basic eight-page return where you declare building society, bank and investment income and claim allowances and relief on pension contributions. You will get extra pages if you are self-employed or rent property for example. If you have the wrong pages call the Revenue order line on (0645) 000404.
- Gather your records together. If you are an employee with extra tax to pay, you need a P60 from your employer (showing your salary and deductions), P11D (cash equivalent of taxable benefits like company cars). If you have changed jobs in the tax year you need a P45. If you are self-employed, you need records of income and expenses. You need statements from banks and building societies showing interest earned on investments. Some send them automatically but others must be chased. You must collect records of dividends from unit trusts and shares and certificates of personal pension contributions.
- Remember you do not have to send the records themselves to the Revenue. You just use them to complete the return. But you must keep records for two years after the end of the tax year or risk a fine of up to £3,000. If you are self-employed you must keep records for six years. The Revenue can investigate your affairs at any time in the 12 months after the tax year ends.
- The Revenue has a helpline if you get stuck: (0645) 000444.
- Do not delay your return because you are waiting for one piece of information. Put in an estimate with a note of explanation.

Accountants are braced for a very busy month

Accountants and tax advisers are braced for a busy September as people return from holiday and realise they have not sorted out their tax affairs.

Millions have put off the evil hour, daunted by the complicated-looking form, the new deadlines and the threat of penalties for mistakes or lateness. Many will be tempted to turn to a "tax professional" for help even if they have never previously done so.

The Revenue says most people who have not previously needed to pay professionals for help with their tax return should not need to start now just because they have to fill in the new self-assessment form. It says: "We don't believe people need accountants. Anyone can get help or advice from our helpline and we have 400 walk-in tax inquiry centres." The helpline is open out of office hours from 5pm to 10pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 10pm Saturday and Sunday.

But self-assessment has spawned a new crop of high street tax advisers offering to complete tax returns for a fixed fee. Currently there is nothing to stop unqualified people from setting themselves up in business and calling themselves "accountant" or "adviser" or "consultant". Taxpayers who trust such people to do their returns and incur penalties because of mistakes or missed deadlines will have no option but to seek redress through the courts.

By contrast, qualified accountants or tax advisers are members of professional bodies that require members to have professional indemnity insurance to protect clients if things go wrong. Choose as an adviser a chartered or certified accountant, a member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, or the Association of Tax Technicians.

A number of firms of chartered accountants now offer to complete simple tax returns for a fixed fee ranging from £75 to £175. Kingston Smith, the London firm, charges £75 for what its senior tax partner Richard Wallis says is an "absolutely basic" service. If you have just a salary, a couple of building society accounts and privatisation shares, you fit the basic profile.

Cooper Lancaster Brewer, with offices in London, Reigate, Manchester, Bolton, Lancaster and Sheffield, offers to complete returns and advise on tax payments or rebates for a fixed fee of £90. The London accountant Levy Gee's Taxpro service costs £175 including a registration fee of £25 for completing the return, going back to the client for necessary information, providing a helpline and submitting the return.

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Our biggest mutual friend

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Britain has never had anything quite like America's Fidelity Magellan mutual fund, the biggest open-ended pooled vehicle for ordinary investors. It grew vast by the classic method of picking individual growth stocks to outperform the market average. For most of its first 20 years it succeeded, and that record attracted so much money that the fund is now worth almost $63 billion (£40 billion). This week, Magellan said it would close to new investors from October, though existing holders could still put new money in. Some say it was bowing to the inevitable.

In the early days of British unit trusts, the most popular funds were pretty cautious. Some invested in a spread of investment trusts, offering exposure to growth portfolios but with a double layer of diversification. More were directed to those wanting a high income, performing the useful function of spreading the implied extra risk in individual high-income stocks. Many such stocks proved good value so, in dull markets, income funds often performed well on capital too.

Fund-of-funds units have faded but income funds remain perennially popular. The biggest UK unit trust, a general equity fund, weighs in at £3 billion. But most of the heavyweights are largely used for institutional investment. The biggest unit trust aimed squarely at individual investors is probably the £1.7 billion Perpetual High Income Fund. It serves the same purposes as income favourites 30 years ago.

To find anything comparable to Magellan in the UK, you have to venture into investment trusts such as the biggest-ranking £2 billion Foreign & Colonial. Like any pooled investment, it aims to spread risk. But there is no fixed portfolio formula. You pay experts to scour the investment world in the hope that their skills will make your money grow faster than the market average and better than you could do. Some do, some don't. Many do most of the time.

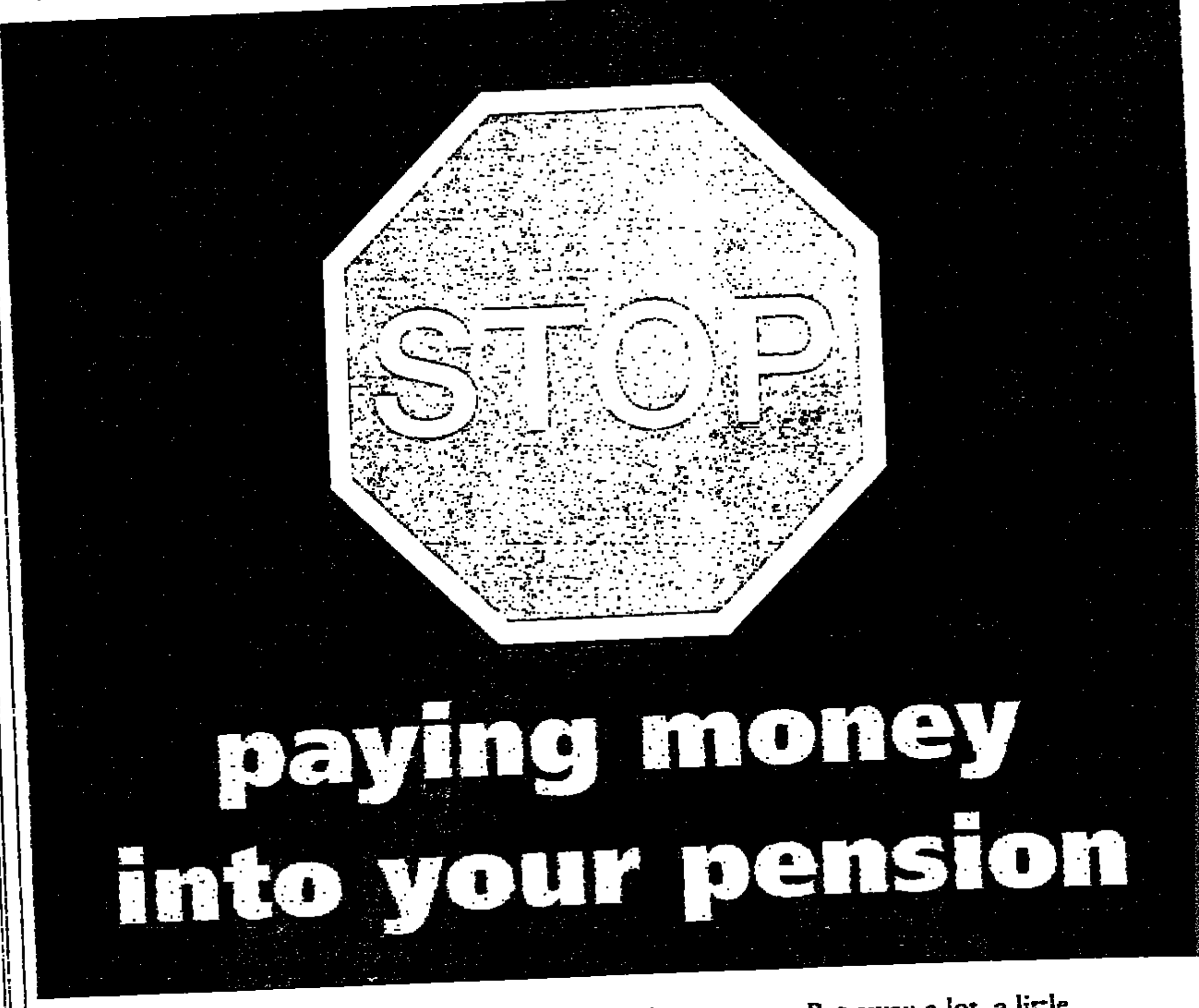
Peter Lynch built his own and Magellan's reputation in a 13-year stint as manager until 1990. Doubtless he was special. Like as not, he also quit at the right time, when it was becoming harder for a huge domestic fund to beat the average. Smaller funds are more agile and can therefore make worthwhile gains in small stocks.

Mr Lynch's successor until 1996, self-conscious about his inheritance, took bigger risks and marched more overtly against the crowd to beat it, with mixed results. The worst mistake was to move Magellan into bonds, anticipating a break in equities that did not come. Peter Young of Morgan Grenfell similarly strove hard for dramatic performance. Magellan has now recognised that such a famous fund also suffers more than most from the classic dilemma of open-ended funds. Cash tends to stream in fastest towards the end of a bull market.

No wonder there is such a strong trend towards index-matching funds, which bounce the timing dilemma back to the investor. They often outperform the local market average merely by virtue of lower costs. Barclays Global Investors, one of the biggest fund managers since its US merger, runs $320 billion in index funds, four fifths of total funds under management.

It typically offers index-matching for most of a portfolio spiced with highly active management for the rest. This combination aims to beat the average regularly by a little. Hermes pioneered such an approach in the UK for its pension funds.

This focuses the risk element of a portfolio to act like a small fund. Private investors have been doing this for years, putting most of their money in "safe" investments and punting a little on risky stocks with high potential, in volatile areas such as emerging markets or on promising but unproven managers of new trusts. A good manager of a big fund should also outperform the average by a little each year. More than that is bound to be matched by risk, however it is packaged.



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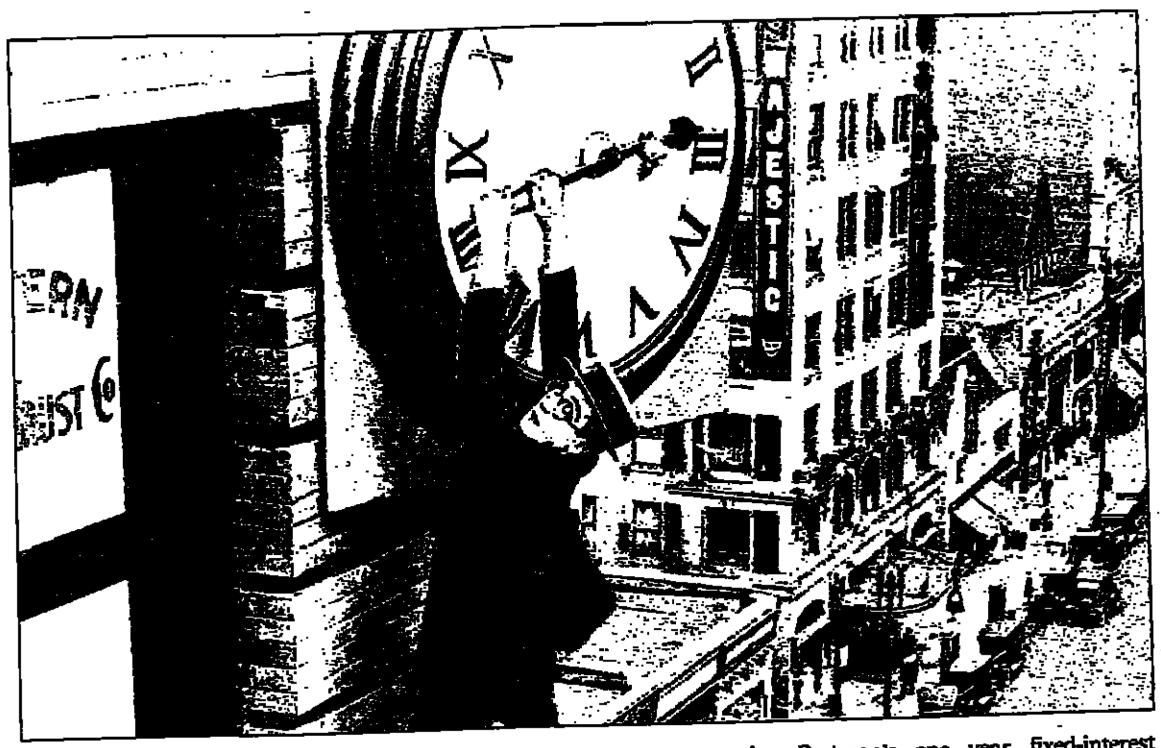
Karen Zagor finds fixed rates for savers while **Gavin Lumsden** surveys fixed-rate home loans

Investors in a bit of a fix

The stock market's recent gyrations have left investors in a bit of a fix. Equities may be the best home for long-term investments, but few advisers would recommend putting all your money into them at the moment. At the same time, the prospect of a further rise in base rates makes long-term fixed-rate investments less appealing.

For the moment, advisers say there is still room for both in a portfolio, but investments must be chosen with care. Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial adviser, said: "The received wisdom is that if rates are going to go up, then fixed-interest products will improve, but there are some good things around at the moment. The trick is to take your own view about where interest rates are going and not to lock in for too long if you expect them to rise again. That way you can take advantage of any future rate rises."

Mr Bolland thinks some of the insurance company guaranteed-income bonds look particularly appealing. Chamberlain de Broe, for example, offers the GE Financial Services guaranteed-income bond with a one-year fixed rate of 6.8 per cent net on deposits of £10,000 and higher. This translates into a gross rate of almost 8.8 per cent. The rate is this high partly because the tax rules allow insurance companies to offer very attractive returns and partly because Chamberlain de Broe reinvests its commission for the year, raising the net yield from 6.55 per cent.



Colin Jackson, managing director at Baronworth Investment Services, believes that even five years is not too long for a fixed-rate investment, if the return is high enough. Baronworth is also cutting its commission to offer a range of bonds including a five-year one through Pinnacle Insurance plc with an annual net rate of 7.10 per cent (about 9.22 per cent gross) on investments above £50,000. "It is a good return for what is a very safe investment," said Mr Jackson.

Those with less to invest should consider some of the bank and building society fixed-rate accounts. The Portman's one year fixed-interest bond pays 7.25 per cent gross (5.8 per cent net for basic-rate taxpayers) on deposits as low as £1,000. Norwich & Peterborough pays 7.20 per cent gross on a minimum of £5,000 fixed for a year and Alliance & Leicester pays 7.10 per cent on the same basis. Escalator bonds, where the amount of interest increases annually, are another safe option. But do not be blinded by the fifth-year return. According to research by Moneyfacts, the Halifax's stepped-income reserve is one of the best, paying 5.50 per cent gross in year one, 6 per cent in year two, 7 per cent in three, 8.35 per cent in four and 10.60 per cent in the fifth year on investments of £10,000 and higher. This sounds impressive, but the average annual return is 7.49 per cent gross, or 5.99 per cent for a basic-rate taxpayer.

An alternative is Hinckley & Rugby's step-up bond, which locks up your money for just three years and has an average annual payout of 7.5 per cent on a minimum balance of £5,000.

With the stock market still frighteningly high, some advisers see a greater role for gilts. David Kauders, senior partner at Kauders Portfolio Management, said: "Investors should realise yield matters, and not just concentrate on price movements." Mr Kauders thinks that while interest rates may rise in the short term, longer term they will settle below 3 per cent with negligible inflation. He points out that investors with gilts maturing now cannot find new gilts with returns to match their maturing stock. If the trend continues, with gilt prices continuing to rise and yields falling, a 7 per cent yield may look very attractive in ten years.

Sting in the tail when loan expires

With base interest rates at 8.5 per cent and widely assumed to be nearing their peak, homebuyers need to take care when looking for fixed-rated mortgages.

Fixed-rate deals have become a popular way for homeowners looking to stabilise their financial affairs. Borrowers pay a fixed rate of interest on their loan for a specified number of years before switching to the lender's variable rate.

Although it might seem a good idea to fix the rate for as long as possible, in fact timing is crucial. The best strategy is to time the fix so that it expires at a point when interest rates are low or falling. However, forecasting where interest rates will be more than five years hence is almost impossible. Short-term predictions are safer. The consensus among experts is that rates will steady next year and start to fall in 1999. On this basis two-to-three year fixed deals are the most attractive. Five-year fixed deals also suffer the disadvantage that they will probably finish in the year after the next general election when interest rates are likely to be volatile.

However, borrowers should not automatically opt for the lowest rate available. Lenders who offer bargain rates usually insist borrowers pay their variable rate for several years after the fixed period expires or inflict a hefty redemption penalty, often equivalent to six months' payments. These lock-in periods often outweigh the initial benefit of the deal.

Halifax, the country's largest lender, for instance offers a three-year fixed deal at 6.45 per cent. The sting in the tail is that you have to pay its variable rate until 2004. Four years of rate uncertainty might seem a high price to pay for three years of protection, especially when it stops you from going back to the market to shop around. A better deal from the Halifax is its three-year deal fixed at 7.35 per cent with no tie-in.

Another one to be wary of is from Bristol & West which offers 4.99 per cent for just one year with a lock-in until 2002.

Patrick Bunton of London & Country, a mortgage broker, says: "It is better to pay a higher rate in your fixed deal and be free to shop around in a few years time." His favourite is the Portman Building Society's Successor mortgage, which offers 6.99 per cent for two-and-half-years (7.3 per cent APR) with no lock-in period and a one-month penalty if you pay off the loan before January 2000. On a typical £60,000 loan this rate will save about £73 a month against the current variable rates. There is a £295 arrangement fee.

If you are looking to remortgage, the Portman also offers a 7.29 per cent fix until October 1999. This will pay your legal and valuation fees and let you pay off a quarter of the loan in the two-year period (Contact: 01202 292 444).

John Charcol, another mortgage broker, has arranged a four-year deal with NatWest fixed at 6.99 per cent. It will only charge a redemption penalty if money market rates fall below this rate.

> **It is better to pay a higher rate in your fixed deal and be free to shop around sooner**

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THE TIMES S

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Sting in the tail when loan expires

WAKE UP YOUR FRIENDS IN LITTLE SNORING

Cleaning up housing soap opera

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Various professionals, including solicitors and estate agents, have a vested interest in prolonging the housebuying process. So it is good news that they are now banding together to streamline the procedures and limit the costs (see page 35). They hope to cut the period between offer and completion from a 14-week soap opera, where the threat of being gazumped is a major plotline, into a West End play. A drama certainly, but one with a happy ending.

Buyers who use the one-stop housebuying shops are less likely to lose the home of their dreams through unnecessary procrastination. But they should not let gratitude for speedy service overwhelm their instinct for caution. Customers of these shops will be offered mortgages and insurance policies from a panel of preferred insurers. Before they buy they should check how these offers compare with the best deals elsewhere, and how much commission is being paid to the shop. The wrong mortgage can be a disaster movie.

Instant turn-off

FORM-FILLING is never fun but the self-assessment tax return would try the patience of even the most fervent devotee of minutiae.

Among the more tedious duties is the need to disclose all of your savings income. Banks and building societies are legally obliged to send out statements of interest paid and tax deducted. But, in practice, some seem not to bother to do so.

This makes life difficult for prolific carpetbaggers with several dozen accounts who could miss the self-assessment deadline of September 30. Hoping for a windfall, they may receive instead a bill for interest on unpaid tax. But while they scurry to seek out the interest details, they may also find it worth checking what rate their balances are earning.

In the line of duty, I keep accounts at some of the societies with a vocal commitment to mutuality to observe whether they keep their pledge to give value and superior service.

From my mutuality sample, only the Britannia had somehow failed to supply my interest information. Needing these details to polish off my tax form, I called at a branch. In the corner, a poster proclaimed the society's aversion to conversion. At the counter, I discovered that the Britannia's way of showing its concern for members was an instant access rate of 0.10 per cent on a balance of £200. The society had closed the account to new investors but failed to contact existing customers, scoring a low mark for service on my mutuality checklist.

At the Portman £200 earns 5.25 per cent. Presumably the Britannia sees all small savers as carpetbaggers, best deterred by low rates.

Philip Barron says post-Budget premiums have soared for medical insurance

Elderly run back to NHS

TELEGRAPH COLOUR LIBRARY

In the pink: regular exercise by retired people is the best insurance against needing to call on a health policy

About a third of the 550,000 elderly people covered by medical insurance policies will drop out over the next year, after the Budget abolition of tax relief on private health cover for the over-60s. The removal of tax relief is causing premiums to rise by as much as 30 per cent.

Gordon Brown's decision to end tax relief, designed to save about £140 million, has caused dismay among pensioners, health insurers say. Premium increases take effect on the policy's renewal date. In many cases, the effect of the rise is exacerbated by age-related and inflation increases. Insurance premium tax of 4 per cent also pushes up premiums.

After estimates that up to 100,0000 have abandoned their policies to fall back on the National Health Service, Western Provident Association, a medical insurer, said 15 per cent of customers with policies for renewal in July and August had not renewed.

Another 62 per cent had opted for lower-cost reduced cover, choosing to rely more on the NHS, while 23 per cent are considering the options. Other health insurers are less willing to admit they are losing anyone. PPP says news of record waiting lists meant that most of its policyholders were keeping the same level of cover, with the rest opting for lower-cost arrangements.

At Bupa, most over-60s are covered under a policy that allows policyholders to save 28 per cent on their premiums if they accept a £250 excess. A typical customer aged 60-64 who was paying £836 a year with tax relief will now pay £1,086 without the excess and £782 with the excess.

Zig Malendewicz, of Nimis, the financial adviser, was contacted by a man of 70, with a wife two years younger, whose joint renewal premium with Prime Health had risen from £778 to £1,578. Bupa, the largest name in the health insurance market, said people with age-capped policies, such as those from Exeter Friendly Society, may avoid the age-related element of rises. BCWA, which dropped its age-cap policy some years ago, is reinstating customers who joined before that change and who lost the benefit of age-capping when they switched to take advantage of tax relief.

Insurers are restructuring policies to give older people more options. Some facing renewal have opted to pay more to keep their cover at the same level. Others are scaling theirs back and the rest are taking an excess and paying part of any claims.

WPA has introduced four policies within which excesses can be chosen to earn discounts. A 60-year-old willing to pay up to £3,000 of medical bills in any year (WPA pays the rest) could cut a premium of £984.85 before abolition of tax relief to £715.35 for comprehensive cover. Taking "limited liability" for up to £1,000 of bills gives a £975.49 premium.

The same person prepared to limit cover to the main conditions that figure prominently in the NHS waiting lists would pay £565.92 with no excess or £509.33 if they are willing to pay £200 of bills. At Exeter Friendly, savings begin with a £100 excess while at BCWA up to 40 per cent can be saved by contributing towards treatment (from October 1).

Though tax relief is now gone, it is not all bad. Cash benefits for policyholders who choose to be treated in NHS hospitals, and cover for complementary therapies — omitted from tax-relief policies — can be part of the new policies.

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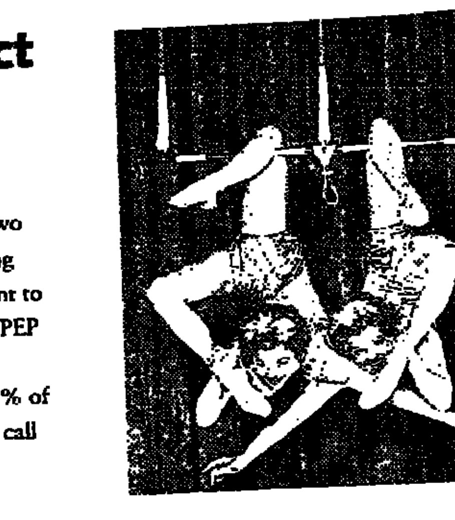

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Adam Jones on the wisdom or otherwise of 'following the herd'

Momentum theory hangs in balance

Sir Isaac Newton, while noting that fast-moving objects take time to slow down, also observed the forces of gravity

Trading-floor philosophers like peppering their investment theories with scientific evidence. Who better to lend credibility to your argument than Sir Isaac Newton? Such is the case with momentum investment, a school of thought that has long been popular among US professional fund managers.

In the United Kingdom, individuals are more likely to be disciples, often without knowing it. They are now being given warning that their approach is becoming increasingly risky. Momentum investment describes the practice of buying into companies that are already rising in market value, on the pseudo-Newtonian premise that fast-moving objects take a while to slow down.

This supposedly means there is time to buy, enjoy some of the price increases and then sell before the stock's charmed run grinds to a halt. It has been likened to jumping on and off a moving train. The underlying quality of the company is often unimportant, overlooked in favour of the sector's prospects or changes in other people's attitudes to the company.

It is this that makes momentum investing anathema to the vocal body of "value investors", such as Warren Buffett, the folksy head of the huge Berkshire Hathaway fund in the US. Value investors base their strategy on the strength of the company and often stand alone in their belief in an unfashionable

INVESTMENT: A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

— they would say *misunderstood* — share. For momentum investors, if the herd is not there already, the stock is not worth your trouble. Momentum investing has been very popular in the US.

In the UK, a good example of a momentum stock is Lloyds TSB, which has risen almost 99 per cent over the past year. HSBC Holdings rose 82 per cent in the year; Barclays almost 56 per cent; British Petroleum 40 per cent; SmithKline Beecham 40 per cent; Standard Chartered 39 per cent; Glaxo Wellcome 35, and Zeneca 30 per cent.

US Robotics, familiar in Britain as a maker of palmtop computers and modems, was one company whose rapid earnings growth attracted the momentum investors. When it gave warning that this growth was slowing, the value of the shares halved. Timing in momentum investing is everything.

In the United Kingdom, the most obvious momentum stocks of 1997 are in the banking sector, as well as pharmaceuticals and oil. Most rises in individual share prices have been because of general interest in sectors, big companies, or international companies. Momentum investing still has a stigma in the City, however, and attracts scepticism. One senior pension fund manager says none of the big institutions has been following a momentum strategy deliberately. He says small companies, which may have momentum because of earnings growth, may not have the liquidity to enable investors to get off the train easily.

A momentum investment trust was planned for last year by Thornton Management, but was withdrawn after an ill-timed Wall Street wobble.

Robert Kerr, a market strategist at Nikko Europe, the securities house, says that research has shown that share price surges caused by momentum investment tend to last for about six months. He speculates that this is the amount of time taken for the City herd to get excited about a fad sector, talk it up, get bored and let it fall.

Nikko is warning momentum investors to change to value investment in the current market climate.

In the event of a market correction, stocks that are already out of favour with the market will fall by a smaller amount. Those whose share price has ballooned away from their traditional valuation may have a very unpleasant time indeed.

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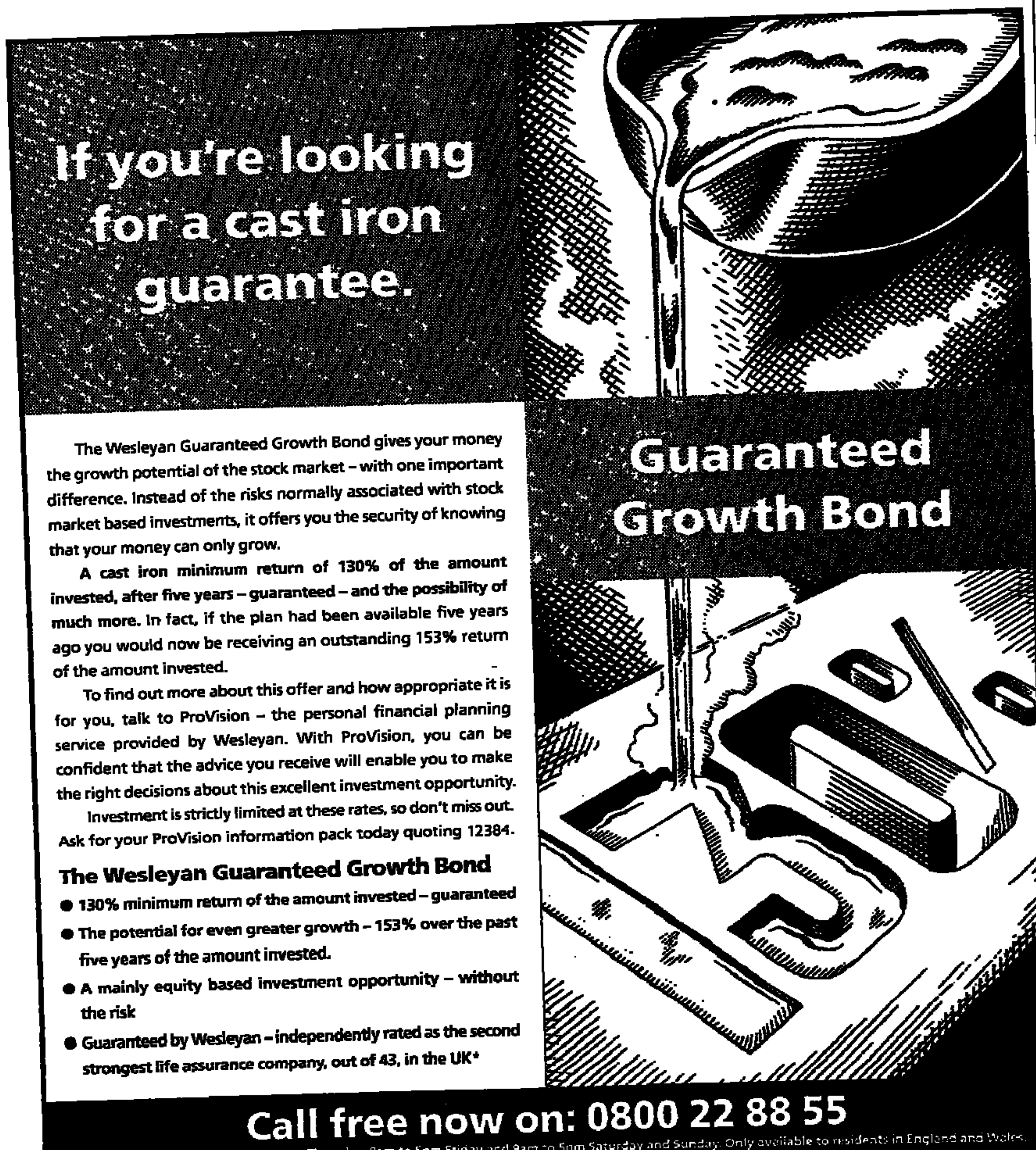

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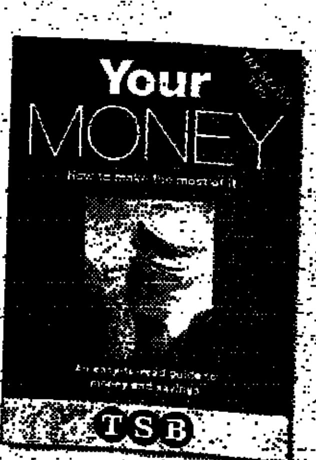

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Small is becoming beautiful again

Patrick Collinson looks at the recent turnround in demand for smaller-company shares

TRUST WATCH

Investors in smaller-company unit trusts have reason to feel hurt. Amid headlines about the stock market boom over the past year, small company trusts are up by, on average, a meagre 1 per cent. Meanwhile the FTSE 100 has raced ahead by nearly 40 per cent.

Smaller-company shares have been unloved and unwanted by the stock market. The main investment action has been in the huge demutualising building societies and insurance companies, with institutional investors scrambling to buy shares in Halifax and Norwich Union.

Sterling's sudden jump in value also hit small companies, leading City analysts to mark down profit estimates. In the words of one investment manager, "an overwhelming bearish pyschology has hit smaller companies".

These smaller companies (defined by the City as having a market capitalisation of up to £250 million) have traditionally traded on the stock market at prices just above their larger brethren, in respect of their greater growth prospects. Yet by the end of July they were trading at about 20 per cent below large stocks — the biggest gap in 15 years — on a price earnings basis.

However, there are signs of a rebound. After falling steadily since March, smaller-company shares perked up in August. One boost has come from a small fallback in sterling, although it remains high. Another is that smaller companies which do not export but focus on UK markets are enjoying the benefits of windfall spending and general economic strength. The surprises in profits have been on the upside, not the down.

Leading investment management houses are now beginning to take much greater interest in smaller companies, and smaller-company unit trusts are becoming a firm favourite on the buy lists of investment advisers.

Jason Holland, a director of BESt Investment, said: "Quite a few investors have been asking if they should be selling their smaller-company unit trusts. We have been telling people to do quite the opposite — you should be holding or building up your investments in this sector."

Mr Holland recommends the smaller-company unit trusts from Credit Suisse, Invesco, Perpetual, Gartmore and Schroders. "A definite pricing gap has opened up between big and small stocks, with the stock market driven up by big banks, pharmaceuticals and oil companies." Bill Mott, head of equities at Crédit Suisse, said: "The rise in the UK stock market has come from a very narrow base of companies. Smaller companies simply haven't participated, and are now looking anomalously cheap. They tend to export a lot of their output and have been hammered by sterling. In my opinion sterling is miles too high, and its strength is only temporary."

Labour's approach to managing the economy — such as the Budget changes to ACT designed to encourage companies to reinvest profits rather than pay out higher dividends — should also benefit smaller companies, he added.

"UK plc hasn't got enough quality growth companies, and has not invested enough in research, development and infrastructure. These are just the sort of companies that Gordon Brown is going to encourage," Mr Mott said.

He picks MTL Investments as typical of the sort of company Crédit Suisse invests in. "It produces safety devices which prevent power surges in places such as oilrigs, and exports 90 per cent of its output. It spends a lot on research and development, yet in the past year its shares have halved in value. It is the sort of unloved company that has become very undervalued."

Invesco's Andy Crossley, however, focuses on the opportunities among smaller companies that are more sensitive to growth in the UK rather than exports. One stock that he has invested in is TJ Hughes, the North West department store chain, where he expects consumer spending to push profits much higher than analysts expect.

A wave of takeover activity may also drive up smaller-company share prices, according to John Sweet of Perpetual, who manages £300 million in small-company shares. "If there is an inefficient market in smaller-company shares, as seems apparent, then there will be bids, management buyouts and corporate takeovers from abroad," he said.

Mr Crossley added that takeovers were already going on: "It's a clear indication that corporates are spotting value that the stock market has not recognised," he said.

Small world: analysts agree that the smaller a company is, the better its chances of weathering market turbulence

All the managers agree that the reasons for investing in a pooled vehicle such as a unit trust or investment trust — reducing risk by holding a diversified portfolio of shares — are all the stronger when dealing with smaller companies. Mr Mott seeks companies that have products which are not too price-sensitive, are research-driven and sell a high proportion of their output overseas. Mr Sweet believes in holding a very broadly based range of companies, with proven management quality.

A final point made by some is that if the much-heralded stock market crash does come — and recent months have seen increased market volatility — then investors may be better off in a smaller-company fund. Mr Mott concluded: "If there is a setback, it's much more likely to be among the leaders. Small companies will be relatively unscathed."

WHAT THE FUND MANAGERS THINK OF WORLD MARKETS

Stock markets across the globe have enjoyed a record-breaking year so far. Will they continue to defy gravity or is the much-heralded "correction" around the corner? We asked experts at some of the largest investment management companies in the UK, which handle hundreds of billions of pounds in long-term savings, to forecast how each of the major markets will fare over the next 12 months, given the current crises in the Asian currencies.

■ GARTMORE:

Manages £59 billion. Stephen Lowe, principal; member Global Policy gp.
UK: Cautious. We are concerned about the unbalanced nature of economic growth, with domestic demand growing rapidly but industrial production hardly growing. Given our nervousness on the US market, it is tough to be positive on the UK market.
US: Substantially underweight. We're amazed at the height of the market.
Continental Europe: Underweight. We are optimistic on earnings but valuations are high.
Japan: Cautiously optimistic. We expect prolonged but sluggish expansion.
Pacific Basin: Cautious. The domestic impact of the recent sudden devaluations may be quite severe.

■ MORGAN GRENFELL ASSET MANAGEMENT:

Manages £82 billion. Greg Fisher, MGAM Investment Policy Committee.
UK: Market well underpinned. Equities not over-expensive relative to bonds. Although interest rates may rise and the economy slow, the market may be able to offer returns of 5 to 15 per cent in the next six to 12 months.
US: High risk. The corporate profits picture is critical. Coca-Cola and Gillette have produced disappointing figures and, if we see more of that, then we could see a 10 to 15 per cent setback.
Continental Europe: Overweight. Much recent stock market growth has been in a narrow focus of stocks.
Japan: Underweight. Valuations are still high in an international context. It's hard to be optimistic over the next six to 12 months.
Pacific Basin: Underweight. Short-term currency risks, but if the economies sustain 6 to 8 per cent growth, it will feed through to higher profits and higher share prices.

■ PRUDENTIAL:

Manages £100 billion. Rhys Herbert, chief economist.
UK: Relatively optimistic. We are worried about the valuation of some major overseas equity markets so the UK is relatively attractive.
US: Relatively expensive. The economic fundamentals are still positive, and the big surprise is the continued outstanding performance on inflation. But there is a risk that growth will be too strong, nudging interest rates higher. We are cautious.
Continental Europe: Slightly underweight. We pared down our overweight position, with Germany and France now looking overvalued.
Japan: Moderately overweight. Cheap but on some international indicators the market still looks expensive.
Pacific Basin: Neutral. The area's problems are more cyclical than structural and it's not the end of the region's economic dynamism.

■ CRÉDIT SUISSE ASSET MANAGEMENT:

UK: Expensive. The market is vulnerable to a tightening of monetary policy, but there are reasons for markets hitting these levels and supporting these valuations.
US: Expensive. The economic landscape is pretty benign, to some extent justifying taking asset values higher.

PATRICK COLLINSON

THE WEEK IN MONEY

A REPORT into the pay levels at 75 FTSE 100 companies reveals that most privatised utility bosses are underpaid rather than overpaid.

The study for the Centre for Economics and Business Research, which took into account directors' experience, the company's market capitalisation and their performance in generating shareholder value concludes, that they were paid less than their experience and company performance and size demanded.

☐ Speculation is mounting that the Northern Rock Building Society will increase its share price estimate by 10 per cent or more, resulting in windfall handouts of about £1,600. The company is making its final preparations for the release of its prospectus next week.

☐ The predicted slump in personal equity plan sales in the wake of the July 2 Budget has failed to materialise, according to the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif). The Chancellor's announcement that Peps were to be replaced by a new savings vehicle was expected to hit sales badly but net sales of Peps invested in unit trusts, usually the main vehicle, was held up at £540 million in July thanks to building society windfalls and buoyant share prices.

☐ Britain's top companies could face a bill of up to £2 billion for increased pensions costs after the abolition of the dividend tax credit to pension funds in Gordon Brown's July Budget. According to a leading firm of actuaries, the blow will fall most heavily on companies with big pension schemes such as BT which may need to top up its fund by £166 million. The threat of cash calls from pension fund trustees could push employers to close down their final salary schemes and replace them with lower-quality money purchase schemes.

☐ Swiss Bank Corporation was severely reprimanded and fined a record £480,000 by the Securities and Futures Authority for two serious compliance failures. The SFA added a warning to other securities firms that it would "persistently pursue and judge harshly" similar cases, even if a breach of the rules had not been intended.

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- You can save by phone or post

Amount	Gross annual rate (including 1% loyalty bonus)
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£10,000+	7.5%

For more details call
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8am – 10pm weekdays and 9am – 12 noon Saturdays. Or speak to your Prudential representative.

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Best rate position based on annual interest rate compared with all other onshore Instant Access and Notice Accounts that allow immediate penalty-free access Source: Moneyfacts as at 28/8/97. The rates include a loyalty bonus of 1% gross p.a., calculated daily and paid annually on the anniversary date. This is paid provided the account is still open and in the preceding 12 months no more than two withdrawals have been made and the balance has not been less than £2,000. Interest will be calculated net of income tax, presently 20% (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), or subject to the required registration, gross. Tax legislation is subject to change. Rates are variable. The account is open to permanent UK residents only. Telephone calls may be monitored or recorded. Prudential Banking plc is registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH. Registered number 2999842.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

How to restore pension value

After the abolition of advance corporation tax credits in the Budget, pension funds are expected to grow at a slower pace than they used to.

Depending on individual circumstances, the amount contributed by employees and/or employers may need to be increased by up to 33 per cent to achieve the same pension at retirement.

NatWest Life has produced a free factsheet, *Does Your Pension Still Add Up?*, which explains how pensions will be affected and what you can do to restore the value of your pension, whether you have a personal pension plan or are part of a company pension scheme. The leaflet includes other options for building up your pension provision, such as personal equity plans. Call 0800 255200 for a copy.

☐ New procedures have been introduced for the resolution of disputes in the management of residential property. Leasehold Valuation Tribunals will provide a quicker and simpler option to court proceedings using specialist professional expertise to settle disputes over service charges and insurance; to determine challenges on proposed works; and to appoint, if requested, a new manager if the management of the block is unsatisfactory. Eleven LVTs located around England and Wales will be available for business on Monday. A free leaflet published by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions provides further information on how the tribunals work, together with the procedures and the costs of application for leaseholders and tenants of flats. For a copy of *Applying to a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal* call 0181-691 9191 (from Monday).

☐ If you are planning to travel abroad by car, Europ Assistance has produced a handy holiday checklist for motorists. The guide includes details of the motoring regulations in countries in Europe, numbers for the emergency services, and reminds drivers to take an international motor insurance certificate (green card), a car registration certificate, a valid driver's licence and, if you are using a company car, a VE103 form. Copies of the checklist can be obtained by calling 01444 442211.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Inst Access	Instant	£1	6.50	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	Inst b	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0845 608 8860	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.25	Yly
Abbey National 0800 174635	Bonus Postal	Postal	£25,000	7.38E	Qly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	60 Day Notice	60 day p	£500	6.80	Yly
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£5,000	7.25	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.55	Yly
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 120	120 day	£5,000	7.50	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£3,000	7.60	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.55	Yly
Midland Bank 0800 180180		5 year	£100	7.50	Yly
Melton Mowbray BS 01664 63937		5 year	£1,000	7.50	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	Nil

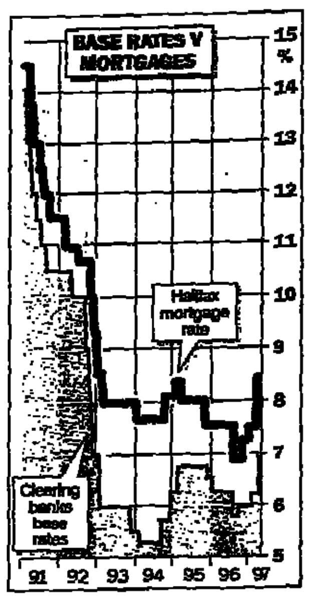
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

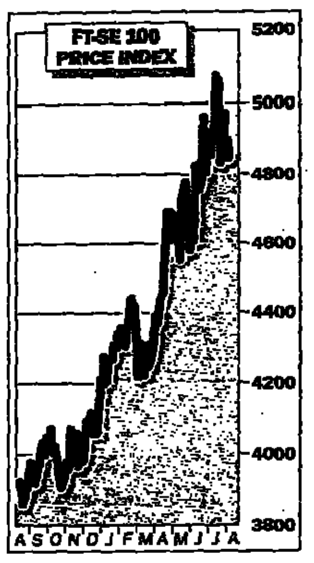
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs *with insurance*	*no insurance*
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38
Hamilton Direct Bank 0800 303000	12.90%	£189.98	£166.65
Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56

Nb. A = Minimum age 22 years. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, E = Rate includes bonus, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHO N ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*4	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* 6	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond4	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Certs†3	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds 6	6.85	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linked†3	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3 6	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000	60day	0645 645000

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 [illegible] flags for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and [illegible] Guaranteed when held for 5 years *0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ *£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings *Taxable but cred in full. ⁷£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Norwich Un ....Level	£ 9,468	£10,476	£11,816
Equitable Lf........Level	£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,675
Standard Lf ....Level	£ 9,224	£10,316	£11,732
Stalwart ....Level	£ 9,250	£10,315	£11,443
Generali ....Level	£ 9,281	£10,301	£11,630

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£8,865	£ 9,673	£10,860
Canada Life ....Level	£8,800	£ 9,614	£10,804
Generali ....Level	£8,624	£ 9,547	£10,816
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,750	£ 9,513	£10,664
Equitable Lf ....Level	£8,595	£ 9,291	£10,260

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,567	£9,097	£ 9,761
Canada Life ....Level	£8,370	£8,994	£ 9,878
Prudential ....Level	£8,386	£8,921	£ 9,743
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,277	£8,813	£ 9,547
Allied Dunbar ....Level	£8,259	£8,803	£ 9,552

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at August 28, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.05
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20
	10,000	*GE Fin Assur*	*6.80**
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.65
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.45
	20,000	*Hambro Assured*	*6.60*
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.65
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
	3,000	*ITT London & Ed*	*6.30*
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.60
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.66
4 Years			
	1,000	*Hambro Assured*	*6.20*
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.20
	3,000	*ITT London & Ed*	*6.70*

* Limited Edition
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

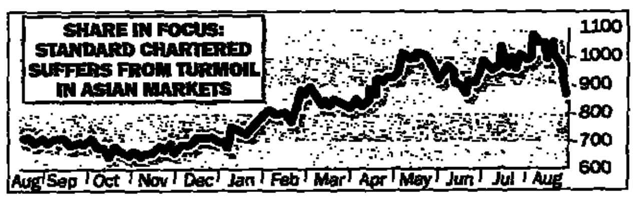
PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	118.53	7.882	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	142.81	8.140	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	*13.000%*	*159.61*	*8.145*	*100.20*	*10,000*
Britannia	13.000%	159.81	8.135	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	151.30	7.962	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	142.26	8.259	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	164.80	8.116	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	131.58	8.135	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	155.03	8.144	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	*12.625%*	*154.28*	*8.183*	*100.14*	*1,000*
Skipton	12.875%	158.66	8.115	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross *coupon*	Buying *price*	Issue *price*	Minimum *purchase*
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	*9.04063%*	*119.00*	*100.00*	*1,000*
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	105.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares

Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.8.99
Northern Rock 0800 591500	5.24	to £250k	90	Fixed to 1.10.99
Bradford & Bingley 0800 570800	5.60	*£15k+*	85	2.10% discount for 2 years
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 mths
Bristol & West 0800 555100	2.90	*No max*	90	*Fixed to 1.9.98*

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck *0113 225 7777*	0.99	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mths, *1% dsc-12 mths*
Scarborough 0990 133149	1.20	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	*0.99*	*£20-145k*	95	*7.61%dsc-6 mth* 3% dsc-6 mth
Abbey National 01908 343400	4.99	to £125k	75	Fixed at 4.99% to 31.10.99

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01248 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	6%dsc-6mth,1.49% 6mth,0.99%-1yr
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc 6 mths *3% disc 6 mths*
Halifa plc 01422 333333	5.45	£25-250k	95	3% disc-30.9.99, 0.5%over svr-10.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482)

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh. EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	563.40	596.60	-14.30	...
UK Equity	760.90	805.20	-18.00	...
Property	445.10	471.10	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	368.80	390.30	- 2.00	...
Money	277.50	293.70	- 0.30	...
International	466.80	494.00	-25.90	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	212.60	223.80	- 1.80	...
Ethical S4	174.20	183.40	- 1.00	...
International S4	237.00	249.50	- 9.10	...
Protected Gilt S4	130.00	136.90	- 0.40	...
Asian Pacific	207.50	218.50	-21.20	...
European S4	254.10	267.50	-11.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	433.60	456.50	+ 0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	302.20	318.20	- 5.50	...
Man Ser 4	859.30	904.60	-17.20	...
Conv Ser 4	364.40	383.60		
Money Ser 4	364.00	383.20	...	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	420.70	442.90	+ 0.10	...
American Ser 4	822.40	865.70	-21.50	...
High Inc Ser 4	914.10	962.30	-17.00	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	239.50	252.20	- 0.90	...
Japan Ser 4	300.30	316.20	-15.70	...
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2132.40	2244.50	-38.10	...
European Fd Acc	551.50	580.50	-21.30	...
Fixed Int Acc	600.70	632.30	- 0.50	...
Gtd Money Acc	370.70	390.20	- 0.40	...
Intl Managed Acc	831.60	875.30	-24.50	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	373.40	393.00	- 2.70	...
Japan Fund	252.20	265.50	-19.20	...
N American Acc	486.50	512.00	-15.00	...
Prop Fd Acc	503.00	529.40	- 0.20	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1325.20	1394.80	-31.70	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	416.20	438.20	+ 0.20	...
Equity Acc	1908.70	2009.20	-56.00	...
Property Acc	712.30	749.80	+ 5.00	...
Far East Acc	322.00	339.00	-24.90	...
Managed Capital	666.90	702.00	-13.70	...
-do- Acc	1442.70	1518.70	-31.80	...
Overseas Acc	1356.40	1427.80	-20.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	594.10	625.40	- 4.00	...
Amer Equity Acc	1344.40	1415.20	-36.70	...
Amer Man Acc	556.80	586.20	- 9.70	...
Amer Prop Acc	118.80	125.10	- 2.30	...
Distribution Bonds	26.60	28.00	- 0.80	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	194.90	194.60	+ 0.30	...
Balced Ser 6	950.30	1000.30	-23.10	...
Opportunity Ser 6	221.30	232.90	- 5.30	...
Distribution Ser 6	108.40	114.10	- 0.10	6.46
UK Equities Ser 6	1430.90	1506.20	-29.10	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1466.90	1544.10	-16.10	...
North Amer Ser 6	689.50	725.70	-20.70	...
Far East Ser 6	553.90	583.00	-44.30	...
Europe Ser 6	552.40	581.40	-19.10	...
Intnl Ser 6	733.20	771.80	-32.70	...
Property Ser 6	626.30	659.20	+ 1.50	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	515.40	542.50	+ 0.60	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec Sr 6	209.20	220.20	- 0.40	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	331.70	349.10	+ 0.10	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1228.40	1293.10	-30.40	...
-do- *Initial*	736.90	775.70	-18.20	...
Gilt Edged Acc	471.00	495.80	- 0.00	...
-do- Initial	285.00	300.00	- 0.40	...
International Acc	490.40	516.30	-23.70	...
-do- Initial	294.90	310.50	-14.20	...
Managed Acc	699.20	736.10	-20.60	...
-do- Initial	421.80	444.10	-12.00	...
Money Acc	323.60	340.70	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	336.40	354.20	+ 0.70	...
-do- Initial	202.40	213.10	+ 0.20	...
America Acc	457.70	481.80	-19.70	...
Far East Gwth	238.70	251.30	-37.90	...
Financial Acc	552.00	581.10	-16.30	...
900 Accum	532.80	560.60	- 2.00	...
Japan Acc	234.90	247.30	-15.10	...
Income Acc	713.50	751.10	-14.60	...
Special Sits Acc	375.60	395.40	- 8.50	...
Unit Tech Acc	201.60	212.30	- 9.60	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1057.01	1057.01	-24.25	
Income Fund	1034.97	1094.60	-17.93	...
Extra Income	934.36	983.54	- 7.04	...
Worldwide Gth	614.15	646.46	-15.94	...
Balanced Fund	913.05	961.11	-19.32	...
Smllr Cos Recov	1076.61	1133.28	- 0.98	...
N Amer & Genl	555.31	584.54	-16.20	...
Pacific Basin	402.66	423.86	-28.65	...
German Growth	305.95	322.06	- 9.78	...
Japan Growth	157.88	166.19	- 8.32	...
The UK Gilt Fd	296.50	312.11	- 6.05	...
Contl Euro Gth	191.80	201.90	- 3.04	...
Property Fund	437.15	460.16	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	392.75	413.43	- 0.73	...
Cash Fund	314.41	330.96	+ 0.28	...
Managed Inv	627.93	660.98	-15.25	...
Nth Amer Recov	358.09	376.94	- 4.09	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	518.95	546.27	-38.19	...
BRITANNIA				
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	228.50	240.10	+ 5.30	...
Performance Plus	277.40	292.90	-11.40	...
With Profit Perf	196.20	207.60	+ 0.20	...
UK Opportunity	296.20	312.20	- 3.20	...
Euro Opportunity	311.00	329.00	-14.90	...
North Amer Opp	291.60	308.50	- 5.20	...
Far East Opp	222.40	235.30	-17.80	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	178.80	188.20	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.50	229.10	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Int	244.50	258.70	- 0.20	...
Cash	176.00	186.10	+ 0.10	6.49
Overseas	308.20	326.10	-13.10	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	475.30	500.40	-11.00	...
UK Equity	892.90	939.90	- 9.60	...
Property	298.80	314.60	+ 0.10	...
Money Market	278.80	293.50	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	355.20	373.90	- 0.40	...
Japan	313.60	330.20	-17.80	...
North America	259.50	273.20	- 4.60	...
International	476.20	501.30	-20.10	...
European	397.70	418.70	-18.90	...
Far East	164.70	173.40	-13.10	...
CANADA LIFE				
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	433.70	456.60	- 9.20	...
Property	286.50	301.60	- 0.30	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	284.50	299.50	- 0.30	...
Equity	533.60	561.70	- 9.70	...
Cash	237.70	250.30	+ 0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	506.60	533.30	-17.70	...
CLife Intl Fd	402.80	424.00	-18.70	...
Managed Fund	926.00	974.70	-19.70	...
Property Fund	582.50	613.20	+ 0.60	...
Equity Fund	1316.80	1386.10	-23.90	...
Gilt Edged Fd	734.00	772.60	- 0.80	...
Deposit Fund	367.60	386.90	+ 0.20	...
Investment Fd	585.70	615.00	-11.60	...
International	641.10	674.80	-29.80	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	189.30	199.30	+ 3.50	...
Managed Fund	846.30	890.90	-30.90	...
Equity Fund	517.20	544.50	-10.40	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	374.00	393.70	- 8.80	...
Ruby	210.50	221.60	- 7.80	...
Emerald	167.10	176.00	+ 0.10	...
Equity	452.00	475.80	- 6.90	...
Property	250.60	263.80	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	247.20	260.30	- 0.40	...
Indexed Secs	191.90	202.00	- 0.10	...
Cash	207.30	218.30	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	366.20	385.50	- 6.00	...
Far East	293.40	308.90	-23.60	...
International	298.50	314.20	-13.90	...
Special Sits	481.20	506.60	- 1.30	...
Ind Income	412.90	434.70	- 7.40	...
European	472.20	497.10	-14.80	...
Japanese	117.90	124.20	- 9.90	...
SE Asia	394.20	415.00	-36.00	...
With Profits Reg	194.90	205.20	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	194.90	205.20	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	447.60	471.40	-11.60	...
Equity	584.10	614.90	- 9.70	...
Property	234.70	247.10	- 0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	322.80	339.80	+ 0.90	...
Index Linked	205.60	216.50	- 0.10	...
Cash	286.90	302.00	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	459.00	483.20	- 9.00	...
Far East Acc	309.60	326.00	-30.80	...
International Acc	374.40	394.20	-19.50	...
Special Sits	741.80	783.00	- 6.40	...
European Flex	696.90	733.60	-24.50	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key !	274.25	..	..	..
-do- Pacemaker !	426.69			
-do- Cash	223.71	235.49	+ 0.19	...
-do- Equity	742.98	782.08	-16.77	...
-do- Fxd Int	432.19	455.99	- 0.16	...
-do- Managed	525.13	552.77	- 9.88	...
-do- Property	381.66	401.77	- 0.52	...
(Pensn) Cash Cap	217.69	229.16	+ 0.12	...
-do- Cash Inv	350.72	369.19	+ 0.44	...
-do- Equity Cap	1949.10	2051.70	-59.16	...
-do- Equity Inv	3140.15	3305.43	-93.03	...
-do- Fixed Cap	464.45	488.91	- 0.30	...
-do- Fixed Inv	748.27	787.67	+ 0.06	...
-do- Index Cap	217.69	229.16	- 0.27	...
-do- Index Inv	350.71	369.18	- 0.20	...
-do- Mngd Cap	764.11	804.34	-18.77	
-do- Mngd Inv	1231.05	1295.85	-29.34	...
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) !	1101.40	...	-22.33	...
Var Ann (5) !	104.10	...	-20.60	...
Prime Managed	525.40	553.10	-11.80	...
Prime UK Equity	693.20	729.70	-12.60	...
Prime Int Equity	359.20	378.20	-16.00	...
Prime Property	264.70	278.70	+ 0.30	...
Prime Fxd Int	274.70	289.20	+ 0.20	...
Prime Index-Lnk	193.20	203.40	- 0.20	...
Prime Cash	228.40	240.50	+ 0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1467.40	1544.60	-17.90	...
Equity II	2209.80	2326.10	-17.00	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut Wth Pfts (5thb) !	116.10	...	+ 0.10	...
Secure (2) !	110.30	..	+ 0.10	...
Managed (3) !	127.90	..	- 2.90	...
Equity Mngd (3) !	127.90	...	- 3.30	...
Adventurous (3) !	118.90		- 4.00	...
Bristol & West (2) !	112.10	...	+ 0.20	...
Equity Mgd S1	309.70	326.10	- 9.10	...
Managed S1	308.20	324.50	- 7.60	...
Adventurous S1	246.00	259.00	- 8.80	...
Managed (2)	208.70	219.70	- 5.00	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	403.00	417.70	-12.00	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) !	116.20	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) !	110.90	..	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2) !	125.90	...	- 3.60	...
Equity Mngd (2) !	127.80	...	- 4.30	...
Adventurous (2) !	118.60	...	- 4.90	...
Bristol & West (2) !	112.80	...	+ 0.20	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	410.80	432.50	-12.20	...
UK Equity	574.60	604.90	-11.60	...
Stewardship	483.80	509.30	- 1.80	...
Overseas Equity	377.20	397.10	-16.80	...
North American	232.50	244.80	- 8.90	...
Pacific Basin	175.50	184.80	-16.40	...
European	366.20	385.50	-17.00	...
Property	197.20	207.60	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	287.40	302.60	+ 0.30	...
Index Linked	193.50	203.70	- 0.90	...
Cash	223.40	235.20	+ 0.10	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	633.70	667.00	- 3.10	...
Managed	922.00	970.50	-25.20	...
Deposit	381.40	401.40	+ 0.20	...
Property	558.40	587.70	+28.20	...
American	647.30	681.30	-26.50	...
Australian	700.20	737.00	-32.40	...
European	859.50	904.70	-43.70	...
Income Acc	1010.50	1063.60	-16.80	...
-do- Dist	548.60	577.40	-11.10	4.43
International	396.40	417.20	-19.10	...
Japan Smaller	339.70	357.50	-25.60	...
Singapore & Mal	396.90	417.70	-40.30	...
Smaller Cos	584.20	614.90	-16.90	...
Tokyo Fund	604.80	636.60	-32.80	...
UK Equity	802.20	844.40	-17.00	...
CCM Vangd Mg	986.30	1038.70	-23.40	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	339.70	357.60	-21.30	...
GT Plan Wwide	600.20	631.80	-11.60	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	635.40	675.40	-23.70	...
-do- Inv A	835.30	879.30	-25.00	...
UK Equity	552.10	581.30	-11.40	...
Gilt Plus	234.90	247.40	- 0.10	...
Managed	380.30	400.50	-11.30	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	273.10	287.40	- 7.60	...
Unitised Profit	165.90	174.60	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	407.60	429.00	- 7.20	...
Fixed Int	230.60	242.70	- 0.20	...
Index-Linked	186.00	195.60	- 0.10	...
Cash Deposit	192.90	202.90	+ 0.20	...
Property	192.50	202.60	- 0.20	...
International	216.70	228.00	-12.20	...
American	260.20	273.70	- 8.00	...
Japan	212.50	223.60	-12.00	...
Japan Smllr Cos	217.60	228.90	-12.30	...
European	248.60	261.60	- 8.60	...
Pacific Fund	273.60	287.90	-37.50	...
Conv Life	171.10	180.00	- 2.20	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	623.70	656.50	-17.30	...
Managed Initial	384.80	405.10	-10.90	...
Equity Ord	1030.50	1084.70	-19.40	...
Equity Init	635.90	669.30	-11.60	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	226.70	238.60	- 0.10	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	146.10	153.80	- 0.10	...
Overs Equity Ord	460.20	484.40	-26.70	...
Overs Equity Init	283.90	298.80	-16.70	...
Property Ord	299.00	314.70	+ 0.30	...
Property Init	184.50	194.20	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	337.20	354.90	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Int Init	209.10	219.10	...	...
Deposit Ord	230.00	242.10	+ 0.20	...
Deposit Initial	141.90	149.40	..	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	926.40	975.40	+16.20	...
Managed Initial	580.60	611.10	-18.20	...
-do- Acc	880.30	926.70	-27.10	...
Equity Initial	946.20	996.00	-25.50	...
-do- Acc	1434.40	1510.40	-37.90	...
Fixed Int Initial	496.70	522.80	- 0.30	...
-do- Acc	753.10	792.80	- 0.10	...
Intl Initial	526.70	554.40	-27.90	...
-do- Acc	798.70	840.70	-41.90	...
Nth Amer Initial	287.50	302.70	- 9.00	...
-do- Acc	396.80	417.70	-12.30	...
Pacific Initial	203.20	213.90	-22.80	...
-do- Acc	277.80	292.40	-29.30	...
Property Initial	193.90	203.70	+ 2.90	...
-do- Acc	293.40	308.80	+ 4.30	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	173.00	182.10	- 0.40	...
-do- Acc	238.70	251.20	- 0.50	...
Deposit Initial	207.70	218.70	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	315.00	331.60	+ 0.20	...
Euro Initial	140.30	147.70	- 6.40	...
-do- Acc	179.00	188.40	- 8.00	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611[illegible]				
Life Funds				
Foundation	33.68	35.45	- 0.46	...
Balanced	33.49	35.24	- 0.72	...
Opportunity	34.02	35.81	- 0.75	...
Deposit	26.29	27.67	+ 0.03	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	26.32	27.71	- 0.29	...
Balanced S2	26.69	28.09	- 0.56	...
Opportunity S2	25.85	27.21	- 0.66	...
Deposit S2	24.57	25.86	+ 0.03	...
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	223.70	235.40	- 4.50	...
-do- Pens	291.40	306.70	- 7.10	...
UK Equity	247.40	260.40	- 4.40	...
-do- Pens	304.30	320.30	- 6.80	...
International	188.50	198.40	- 7.20	...
-do- Pens	212.50	223.60	- 9.70	...
Deposit	154.50	162.60	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	189.20	199.10	+ 0.20	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	745.00	788.40	- 9.30	...
British Fund	799.10	845.70	-15.80	...
International	693.50	733.90	-25.40	...
Dollar Fund	641.90	679.30	-21.40	...
Capital Fund	651.10	689.00	-19.50	...
Income Fund	997.80	1055.90	-16.70	...
Property Series A	539.10	570.50	+ 2.90	4.80
Property Units	899.50	944.50	+ 5.00	...
Financial Fund	945.20	1000.30	-33.50	...
Managed Ser A	716.10	757.80	-17.10	...
Managed Units	1294.50	1362.70	-30.40	...
High Yield Fund	889.40	941.20	- 9.90	...
Money Series A	322.40	341.20	+ 0.40	...
Money Units	431.80	454.60	+ 0.70	...
Equity Fund	829.80	878.10	-23.90	...
Fixed Interest	451.60	477.90	+ 2.60	...
Indexed Secs	210.70	223.00	+ 0.50	...
European Fund	1037.40	1097.80	-34.90	...
Natural Res	306.90	324.80	- 5.30	...
Far East Fund	581.30	615.40	-50.50	...
Smaller Cos	667.30	706.20	+ 1.80	...
Special Sits	688.50	728.60	- 4.30	...
Man Currency	288.00	304.80	...	...
Japanese Tech	282.70	299.20	-27.60	...
US Smaller Cos	502.60	531.90	- 4.10	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd				
Deposit	275.20	289.70	+ 0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	77.10	82.30	- 3.00	...
Fixed Interest	387.70	408.30	+ 0.80	...
Gold	79.10	83.30	- 0.90	...
Managed	813.60	856.60	- 2.00	...
Mngd Growth	263.80	277.70	+ 6.10	...
Property	391.30	411.90	...	...
Residential Prop	123.50	130.10	+ 0.10	...
TSB American	372.80	392.50	- 7.20	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1249.80	1315.70	-10.20	...
TSB European	395.50	416.40	- 8.10	...
TSB Income	591.90	623.20	- 0.60	...
TSB Intl	539.70	568.20	-12.50	...
TSB Pacific	415.50	437.40	-23.60	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48183				
Global Managed	760.10	800.10	-18.40	...
Global Property	330.70	348.10	...	...
Global Fixed Int	617.90	650.40	+ 1.00	...
Global Equity	835.90	879.90	-23.80	...
Global Cash	238.00	250.50	+ 0.20	...
For Laurentian see Lincoln				
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	200.10	210.70	...	...
Brit Opps Init	189.30	199.30	- 2.60	...
-do- Acc	254.60	268.00	- 3.50	...
Cash Initial	172.30	181.40	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	321.30	338.30	+ 0.40	...
Equity Initial	885.90	932.60	-16.70	...
-do- Acc	1652.10	1739.10	-31.30	...
Fixed Initial	386.00	406.40	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	720.00	757.90	+ 0.10	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	141.80	149.30	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc	225.70	237.60	- 0.10	...
Intl Initial	356.40	375.20	-16.70	...
-do- Acc	654.30	688.80	-30.80	...
Managed Initial	581.70	612.40	-15.90	...
-do- Acc	1084.90	1142.00	-29.70	...
Property Initial	231.60	243.80	- 0.40	...
-do- Acc	432.00	454.80	- 0.50	...
LINCOLN				
The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	£185.28	...	-370.00	...
Property Units	3106.00	3270.00	-34.00	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	8533.00	8982.00	-214.00	...
2nd Equity Acc	874.20	920.10	-18.90	...
2nd High Inc Ac	852.90	897.70	-13.20	...
2nd Property Acc	278.90	293.50	+ 3.00	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	209.60	220.50	- 1.00	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	592.10	623.20	-14.90	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	281.10	295.80	-11.30	...
2nd Deposit Acc	315.20	331.70	+ 0.30	...
2nd Gilt Acc	357.60	376.40	+ 0.30	...
2nd Amer Acc	1037.00	1091.00	-26.00	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	246.20	259.10	- 0.80	...
2nd Index Acc	232.90	245.00	- 0.10	...
2nd Far East Acc	360.50	379.40	-44.40	...
2nd Global Acc	196.50	206.80	- 9.70	...
2nd Euro Acc	212.80	223.90	- 8.80	...
2nd Japan Acc	147.50	155.10	-10.30	...
2nd Intl Cr Bd Acc	175.60	184.70	- 0.60	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	166.00	174.70	- 3.30	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	594.10	625.30	+ 6.30	...
Managed	532.20	560.10	-13.40	...
American	617.40	649.80	-15.60	...
UK Equity Fd	634.70	668.00	-13.80	...
Japan	162.40	170.90	-11.30	...
Index-Lkd	208.60	219.40	- 0.10	...
High Yield	1185.00	1247.00	-18.00	...
Money	447.80	471.30	+ 0.40	...
International	441.50	464.70	-21.80	...
Perpetual Active	405.50	426.70	-14.30	...
Growth Acc	832.30	876.00	-21.00	...
Gilt Edged	506.70	533.30	+ 0.40	...
European	194.20	204.30	- 8.00	...
Far East	190.70	200.60	-23.60	...
LONDON LIFE				
100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 984 7777				
Equity !	1252.70	...	-15.80	...
Fixed Interest !	516.60	...	+ 1.20	...
Property !	476.80	...	+ 0.50	...
Deposit !	329.30	...	+ 0.40	...
Mixed !	763.60	...	-14.60	...
Indexed Stock !	248.60	...	- 1.30	...
International !	336.70	...	-15.50	...
Equity A !	284.90	...	- 3.70	...
Fixed Int A !	228.40	...	+ 0.50	...
Property A !	208.80	...	+ 0.20	...
Deposit A !	192.90	...	+ 0.30	...
Mixed A !	250.00	...	- 4.80	...
Index Stock A !	194.20	...	- 0.90	...
International A !	209.60	...	- 9.70	...
Equity P !	1080.90	...	-15.70	...
Fixed Int P !	715.90	...	+ 1.60	...
Property P !	375.00	...	+ 0.30	...
Deposit P !	397.30	...	+ 0.50	...
Mixed P !	731.20	...	-16.20	...
Index Stock P !	287.70	...	+ 0.10	...
International P !	403.00	...	-22.80	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap !	639.30	...	-12.60	...
-do- Acc !	1208.90	...	-22.70	...
Property Cap !	138.50	...	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc !	249.80	...	+ 0.10	...
Fxd Interest Cap !	207.40	...	- 0.40	...
-do- Acc !	377.10	...	- 0.40	...
Equity Cap !	409.50	...	- 8.40	...
-do- Acc !	749.50	...	-14.80	...
Internatl Cap !	256.10	...	-10.40	...
-do- Acc !	468.90	...	-18.60	...
Gtd Deposit Cap !	159.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc !	287.90	...	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap !	403.20	...	- 9.00	...
-do- Acc !	743.80	...	-15.90	...
Moneymaker Fd !	568.30	...	-10.60	...
Capital Growth !	2456.90	...	-52.30	...
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	677.60	711.60	-14.60	...
Amer Rec Bond	829.80	871.40	- 3.00	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	331.50	348.20	- 1.10	...
Australasia Bd	313.00	328.80	-17.60	...
Commodity Bond	400.00	420.10	-10.70	...
Deposit Bond Acc	401.30	421.50	+ 0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	1905.50	2000.90	-11.70	...
European Bd Acc	554.20	582.00	-12.80	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1015.60	1066.50	-18.10	...
Gilt Bond Acc	536.00	562.90	+ 3.30	...
Gold Bond Acc	147.40	154.80	- 4.20	...
High Yield Bond	413.80	434.60	- 9.00	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	235.70	247.00	+ 0.10	...
International Bd	917.10	963.00	-39.50	...
Japan Bond Acc	197.80	207.70	-10.70	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	194.00	203.80	-10.00	...
Managed Bonds	1088.00	1142.50	-30.00	...
Prop Bond Acc	512.90	538.60	- 4.40	...
Rec Bond Acc	1009.60	1060.20	- 8.30	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	311.90	327.60	-39.90	...
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	303.00	319.00	- 7.20	...
UK Equity Acc	470.30	495.10	-10.70	...
Special Sits	125.60	132.30	- 2.60	...
Special Sits Acc	195.10	205.40	- 3.90	...
North American	259.00	272.70	- 6.00	...
N American Acc	402.20	423.40	-13.70	...
Pacific Basin	330.80	348.30	-25.60	...
Pacific Basin Acc	513.60	540.70	-39.30	...
Fixed Interest	312.30	328.80	- 0.10	...
Fixed Interest Acc	485.50	511.10	+ 0.20	...
Property	189.30	199.30	+ 0.50	...
Property Acc	294.20	309.70	+ 0.90	...
Deposit	155.60	163.80	...	...
Deposit acc	241.90	254.70	+ 0.20	...
Managed	322.60	339.60	- 8.00	...
Managed Acc	461.50	485.80	-11.80	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	457.00	481.00	+ 3.80	...
UK Equity	504.30	530.80	- 9.80	...
Gilt Edged	719.50	757.30	- 1.60	...
Interest Fund	445.20	468.60	+ 0.50	...
Managed Fd	613.00	645.20	-13.30	...
Ind Equity	752.10	791.60	-21.00	...
North American	321.50	338.40	- 9.70	...
Far East	474.60	499.50	-23.80	...
Intl Currency	262.60	276.40	- 0.20	...
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	626.50	659.40	-16.20	...
UK Equity	894.60	941.60	-20.00	...
Overseas Equity	562.20	591.70	-27.00	...
Americas	590.90	621.90	-12.60	...
Far East	535.90	564.10	-46.80	...
Property	242.40	255.10	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	464.60	489.00	+ 0.40	...
Indexed Gilt	264.00	277.80	- 0.20	...
Deposit	282.40	295.10	- 0.20	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD				
PO Box 386, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	180.20	189.70	- 5.70	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1943.70	2046.00	-41.80	...
Equity Fund	4523.10	4761.20	-84.50	...
Property Fd	705.00	742.10	+ 5.30	...
Fixed Int Fd	727.40	765.70	+ 2.40	...
Deposit Fund	393.40	414.10	+ 0.30	...
Intl Fund	314.00	330.50	-11.30	...
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	407.90	430.30	- 7.80	...
Fxd Interest Acc	290.20	306.20	+ 0.30	...
International Acc	304.20	320.90	-11.30	...
Managed Acc	280.40	295.80	- 5.50	...
Property Acc	213.30	225.10	+ 1.40	...
Money Acc	172.00	181.50	+ 0.20	...
Spec.Mkt Acc	226.10	238.60	- 6.80	...
Japan Equity Acc	97.90	103.30	- 5.20	...
N Amer Acc	245.90	259.40	-10.90	...
Pacific Acc	137.20	144.80	-11.50	...
European Acc	279.50	294.90	- 9.10	...
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	146.30	154.00	+ 0.30	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	351.50	370.10	+ 0.50	...
Inv Equity	1742.60	1834.40	-48.50	...
Inv Managed	1136.10	1195.90	-36.20	...
Ret Managed	1332.20	1402.40	-43.70	...
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	470.40	490.00	- 2.80	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	1040.40	1095.20	-20.50	...
Equity Fund	2236.80	2354.60	-28.50	...
Intl Fund	783.20	824.50	-32.10	...
Fixed Interest	674.60	710.20	+ 0.70	...
Property Fund	524.80	552.50	+ 4.50	...
Cash Fund	405.90	427.30	+ 0.40	...
Pacific Basin	339.00	356.90	-30.40	...
N American Fd	444.60	468.10	- 9.90	...
Euro Fund	409.10	430.70	-13.00	...
Balanced Fund	206.30	217.30	- 4.80	...
Strategic Fund	229.70	241.80	- 4.40	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) !	981.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc	533.20	561.30	...	...
Op Prop	554.20	583.40	...	...
Op Equity	1376.10	1448.50	-64.00	...
Op High Yield	709.60	746.90	- 1.40	...
Op Managed	1049.00	1104.20	-42.50	...
Op Deposit	436.00	458.90	+ 0.40	...
Japan Smlr	176.40	185.70	...	...
Managed Gilt	379.20	399.20	...	...
British	516.20	543.40	...	...
Global Bond	126.20	132.80	...	...
Gold Share	85.30	89.80	...	...
Japan	376.10	395.90	...	...
UK Smlr Cos	570.90	600.90	...	...
Mngd Growth	625.00	657.90	...	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	507.50	534.20	-14.90	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	95.90	101.50	- 1.10	2.36
Deposit Fund (2)	423.20	447.90	+ 0.40	7.00
Gilt Fund	628.40	664.00	+ 0.20	8.31
Global Equity Fd	291.40	308.80	-11.50	...
Property Fund (46)	125.20	132.50	...	6.96
AG Bond Fund	166.20	175.90	- 4.80	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	822.50	865.80	-18.00	...
Fixed Interest	438.50	461.60	+ 0.20	...
Index-Linked	221.40	233.10	- 1.10	...
International	543.00	571.60	-25.30	...
Property	336.30	354.10	+ 0.10	...
Cash	255.20	268.70	+ 0.10	...
Managed	599.00	630.60	-15.60	...
Cap Gteed Bd	170.20	179.20	- 2.80	...
95% Safeguard	110.70	...	- 1.60	...
100% Safeguard	108.30	...	- 0.60	...
Wealth Prot Cap	104.90	...	- 0.80	...
Wealth Prot Inc	138.30	...	+ 1.50	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	202.39	213.04	+ 0.10	...
Index-Linked	189.40	199.30	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	218.60	230.10	+ 0.40	...
Mixed	339.80	357.80	- 8.30	...
UK Equity	339.40	355.20	- 4.00	...
International	323.90	341.00	-14.30	...
American	437.10	460.10	-14.20	...
Japan	195.90	206.20	- 8.70	...
European	384.90	405.10	-14.00	...
Pacific	347.10	365.40	-37.30	...
Technology	594.40	625.60	-29.10	...
Frgn Bd/Crcy	243.60	256.40	- 2.50	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	248.80	262.00	+ 1.30	...
UK Equity	521.90	549.50	- 9.80	...
American	379.80	399.90	-11.20	...
Pacific	346.00	364.20	-30.00	...
European	649.00	682.30	-26.10	...
Global Mgd	381.60	401.80	-20.30	...
Fixed Interest	286.90	302.10	+ 1.00	...
Index Linked	226.30	238.30	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	217.80	229.30	+ 0.20	...
Managed	379.90	400.00	-10.10	...
Worldwide	142.80	150.40	- 7.80	...
Pen Worldwide	154.90	163.10	-10.00	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2372.60	2446.00	...	...
Safety Fund	290.00	305.30	- 0.80	...
Growth Fund	311.60	328.00	- 6.10	...
Opportunity Fd	314.50	331.10	- 5.80	...
Cash Fund	193.40	203.60	+ 0.20	...
European Fund	511.70	538.70	-18.00	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	249.40	262.60	+ 0.70	...
Index-Linked Fd	206.30	217.20	- 0.20	...
International Fd	352.00	370.60	-17.50	...
North American	381.10	401.20	-11.00	...
Property Fund	136.80	144.10	...	...
UK Equity	354.00	372.70	- 3.00	...
UK Smaller	334.30	351.90	+ 3.20	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	361.80	381.00	- 7.10	...
Equity	403.50	424.90	- 4.60	...
International	335.00	352.80	-14.40	...
Property	257.70	271.40	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	288.80	304.10	+ 0.20	...
Index Linked	207.80	218.80	- 0.70	...
Cash	205.60	216.50	+ 0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngt	1064.90	1132.90	-22.00	...
Cash Fund	375.30	395.50	+ 0.40	...
Property Fund	335.90	354.00	+ 2.50	...
Equity Fund	1129.70	1201.90	-47.20	...
Fxd Interest Fund	578.40	609.50	- 3.50	...
International	471.80	502.00	-22.10	...
High Income	1015.80	1080.70	- 9.90	...
Far East	554.30	589.70	-43.20	...
North American	882.80	939.20	-16.70	...
Special Sits	910.60	968.80	- 5.10	...
Technology	1196.80	1273.20	-39.90	...
Extra Income Fd	544.60	579.40	- 8.40	...
Gilt Fund	549.00	584.10	+ 0.60	...
European	212.30	225.80	- 9.00	...
Adventurous Mg	270.40	285.00	- 8.80	...
Secure Mgd	189.50	199.70	- 1.70	...
Equity Inc Dist	148.40	158.40	- 2.00	4.04
Managed Dist	129.80	136.80	- 1.00	4.67
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	438.00	466.00	- 4.90	...
North America	525.90	559.50	-14.80	...
Far East Fund	585.60	623.00	-41.10	...
Global Managed	588.30	625.90	-14.90	...
Deposit Fund	252.90	266.30	+ 0.20	...
Prime Residential	145.50	153.20	+ 0.20	...
European Fund	378.80	403.00	-13.70	...
Fixed Interest	62.50	66.50	- 0.30	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1395.00	1395.00	...	...
Inv Pol 2	1259.30	1325.70	...	...
Inv Pol 3	1187.40	1250.00	...	...
Inv Cash	352.90	371.60	...	...
Mixed Fund	596.40	627.90	-14.00	...
Equity Fund	759.90	800.00	-12.40	...
Property Fund	284.80	299.90	+ 1.00	...
International Fd	601.90	633.70	-28.40	...
Fixed Interest Fd	461.10	485.50	+ 2.20	...
Indexed Stock Fd	229.60	241.80	- 0.80	...
Cash Fund	256.60	269.20	+ 0.30	...
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	513.40	540.40	-17.20	...
Equity Acc	671.90	707.20	- 7.10	...
International Acc	403.80	425.00	- 6.70	...
Property	250.40	263.50	+ 0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	299.30	315.10	+ 0.30	...
Equity	1471.70	1549.20	-17.00	...
European	217.40	228.90	- 7.40	...
Far East	166.10	174.90	-10.90	...
Fixed Interest	290.00	305.30	+ 1.00	...
Index Linked	243.70	256.60	+ 0.30	...
International	705.10	742.30	-27.70	...
Managed	933.60	982.80	-18.00	...
Nth American	226.10	238.10	- 4.70	...
Property	419.30	441.60	+ 0.40	...
Pensions				
Cash	482.60	508.10	+ 0.60	...
Equity	2300.30	2421.40	-31.90	...
European	297.10	312.80	-13.30	...
Far East	131.50	138.50	-10.90	...
Fixed Interest	696.40	733.10	+ 2.10	...
Index Linked	347.00	365.30	+ 0.50	...
International	1090.40	1147.80	-44.40	...
Managed	1413.70	1487.10	-28.00	...
Nth American	315.00	338.50	- 8.40	...
Property	616.50	649.00	+ 1.60	...
Stock Exchange	313.50	330.00	- 7.20	...
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	945.40	995.20	-22.60	...
Equity Fund	1288.00	1356.60	-24.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	492.00	517.80	+ 0.60	...
Index-Linked Fd	209.70	220.80	- 0.10	...
Property Fund	584.80	615.60	+ 0.50	...
International Fd	922.20	970.80	-37.80	...
N American Fd	446.80	469.30	-13.50	...
Far East Fund	235.30	247.70	-19.40	...
Deposit Fund	334.80	352.50	+ 0.20	...
Intnl Bd !	1133.00	...	-70.00	...
Worldwide Bond	168.90	177.80	- 1.80	...
European	263.90	277.80	- 9.30	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	967.90	1019.00	-12.40	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	598.90	630.30	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund !	666.30	...	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc !	633.90	...	+ 0.70	...
Agricultural Fd !	929.60	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc !	885.20	...	+ 0.60	...
Abbey Nat Fd !	502.00	...	+ 0.40	...
Abbey Nat Acc !	525.20	...	+ 0.50	...
Investment Fd !	508.50	...	-11.60	...
Investment (A) !	485.90	...	-11.10	...
Equity !	1901.30	...	-34.00	...
Equity Acc !	1808.20	...	-32.40	...
Money Fund !	540.70	...	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc !	513.80	...	+ 0.40	...
Actuarial Fd !	831.00	...	-18.90	...
Gilt-Edged Fd !	463.30	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc !	463.30	...	+ 0.60	...
Retire Annuity !	1433.00	...	...	...
Immed Annuity !	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life !	254.00	...	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc !	2074.70	...	-20.80	...
Managed Acc !	1177.60	...	+ 0.40	...
Equity Account !	1804.70	...	+ 0.60	...
Mngd Fund Acc	534.30	562.40	+ 0.10	...
Equity Fund Acc	776.80	817.70	+ 0.20	...
Prop Fund Acc	296.00	311.60	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	383.30	403.50	+ 1.50	...
Money Fund Acc	245.70	258.70	+ 0.30	...
Indx-Lnk Secs Ac	234.20	246.50	+ 0.70	...
Pers Pens Acct !	2663.80	...	+16.60	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1237.90	1303.10	+ 8.10	...
Pens Guarantee	313.20	329.70	+ 0.40	...
Pens Equity	505.70	532.40	+ 5.60	...
Pens Property	348.00	366.40	+ 0.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	375.30	395.00	- 2.40	...
Pens Intl	329.70	347.10	+ 1.00	...
Pens Money	272.50	286.90	+ 0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	229.30	241.30	- 1.60	...
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1193.20	1256.10	-25.60	...
Property Acc	448.50	472.20	...	...
Equity Acc	2111.60	2222.80	-29.60	...
Fixed Int Acc	495.00	521.10	+ 1.50	...
Cash Acc	347.80	366.30	+ 0.50	...
Amer Equity Acc	611.70	643.90	-21.50	...
Japan Acc	259.40	273.10	-17.50	...
Pacific Acc	395.20	416.10	-25.20	...
Far Eastern Acc	841.60	885.90	-49.20	...
International Acc	731.90	770.50	-30.40	...
Distribution Fund	331.80	349.30	- 1.20	5.37
European	257.20	270.80	- 9.10	...
Defllt Dist	219.40	231.00	- 1.20	...
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	372.70	392.40	- 9.60	...
Property Fund	238.90	251.60	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	265.20	279.20	...	...
Money Fund	223.70	235.50	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	504.40	531.00	-15.60	...
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	929.80	978.70	-22.50	...
Money Fund	354.30	372.90	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	873.10	919.00	-17.20	...
Fixed Interest	337.70	355.40	+ 1.60	...
Property Fund	426.00	448.40	- 0.40	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Genl	815.80	859.60	+ 1.30	...
Income	1027.10	1082.30	-11.10	...
International Gth	776.50	818.30	-26.50	...
Capital Fund	803.70	846.40	-17.60	...
Recovery Fund	642.90	677.40	- 9.00	...
Japan & General	226.80	239.00	-14.80	...
Formerly Alims				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	20.16	21.22	+ 0.02	...
Bear	26.09	27.46	- 0.37	...
Owl	28.58	30.08	- 0.46	...
Bull	23.83	25.08	- 0.58	...
Stag	24.30	25.58	- 0.66	...
Gilt Edged	22.34	23.52	+ 0.11	...
Deposit	17.40	18.32	+ 0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	28.39	29.88	+ 0.03	...
Bear	38.53	40.56	- 0.65	...
Owl	41.36	43.56	- 0.81	...
Bull	32.59	34.31	- 0.97	...
Stag	32.72	34.44	- 1.01	...
Gilt Edged	29.68	31.24	+ 0.17	...
Deposit	23.32	24.55	+ 0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund !		787.55	-18.10	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	484.82	510.34	- 9.57	...
N Amer Equity	415.93	437.82	-11.23	...
Far East Equity	399.95	421.00	-31.34	...
Fixed	356.67	375.44	+ 1.70	...
Cash Deposit	228.67	240.71	+ 0.22	...
Property	181.54	191.09	- 0.18	...
Special Opp	470.44	495.20	-12.72	...
Managed	413.05	435.42	-10.03	...
Index-Linked Fd	216.75	228.16	+ 0.64	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	777.30	815.80	-18.90	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	447.90	471.40	+ 2.10	...
Life Equity Acc	1151.80	1207.30	-22.70	...
Life Money Acc	333.00	350.50	- 0.30	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1017.50	1067.80	-24.60	...
Life Intl Acc	585.60	613.90	-28.40	...
Life High Inc Acc	1130.00	1187.30	-33.70	...
Life Property Acc	285.90	300.90	- 0.30	...
Brewin Equity	956.60	1006.90	+16.80	...

Marianne Curphey reports on moves to end gazumping and speed up house sales

From sale to move in six days

Buying or selling a house could take days or weeks rather than months if sweeping changes predicted by mortgage lenders and estate agents take place next year. Even the Law Society, which had resisted change, is now urging solicitors to become involved in setting up "one-stop financial shops" offering legal and mortgage services, valuations and searches.

The centres aim to cut drastically the time between making an offer on a house and exchanging contracts, reducing the likelihood of gazumping.

One such group of solicitors in Scotland was yesterday told by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that although it operated a monopoly, it was not doing so against the public interest. The MMC found that the Solicitors' Property Centres, which has branches in England, generally charged lower than average fees. Most of the big mortgage lenders, including the Halifax and Britannia, are also testing demand for such outlets by opening pilot centres.

This week Hambro Countrywide, the biggest estate agency in the UK, announced it was doubling to six the number of one-stop shops and intended by next year to increase its staff threefold to 300. Just days later, a code of practice for estate agents was extended to include small, independent chains as well as large corporate agencies. The voluntary scheme allows people with grievances access to an independent ombudsman. The Government is also looking into the process of house selling to try to find a solution to practices such as gazumping.

Harry Hill, managing director of Hambro Countrywide, said the shops offered a complete conveyancing service for a fixed fee of £350 plus VAT for all properties up to £200,000. Hambro owns such companies as Mann & Co, Taylors, Dixons and Burstow Eves.

"We are competing on service, not price," he said. "In other parts of the country you might find a high street solicitor who is cheaper. We are aiming to cut the transaction time to six days and eventually complete sales on a Saturday or Sunday, which is virtually unheard of. This will mean people do not need to take a day off to move."

The Law Society dismissed Hambro's claims that a house sale should take just six days, saying the deal moved "as slowly as the slowest person in a chain". It also initially expressed concern that an estate agency might act for both buyer and seller, thus threatening the independence of any advice.

However, David McNeill, a spokesman for the Law Society, said he had been reassured by news that reputable legal firms such as Eversheds and Shoosmiths and Harrison had agreed to join Hambro's scheme. He added: "We would like to see solicitors setting up their own conveyancing centres where people can choose the services or package they prefer."

Mr Hill expressed surprise that legal firms were only now responding to competition. "At present it can take 14 weeks to sort out a sale, during which time prospective buyers drop out. We want to speed this up, and are operating on a no-sale no-fee basis.

"We will have a panel of preferred mortgage and insurance productions, and can quote removal fees by telephone. I believe this latest development will have the same effect on house buying as Peter Wood made on insurance brokers with Direct Line."

University fees threat to first-time buyers

Bank and building society bosses are fond of describing first-time buyers as the "motor of the housing market", essential to any sustained recovery. To their relief, first-time buyers are in optimistic mood. A recent Halifax study showed that such was their confidence in rising prices that they expected to be able to sell their homes and move to higher priced properties in weeks.

However, growing graduate debt, after the introduction of university tuition fees, could discourage those in their twenties from becoming homeowners, with consequences for the values of all properties. Already students are leaving college an average £2,000 in debt. Fees could lift this fivefold. This would be a big blow to lenders, after the recent rise in demand by first-time buyers. In the 12 months to June, 43 per cent of loans went to them, up 5 per cent.

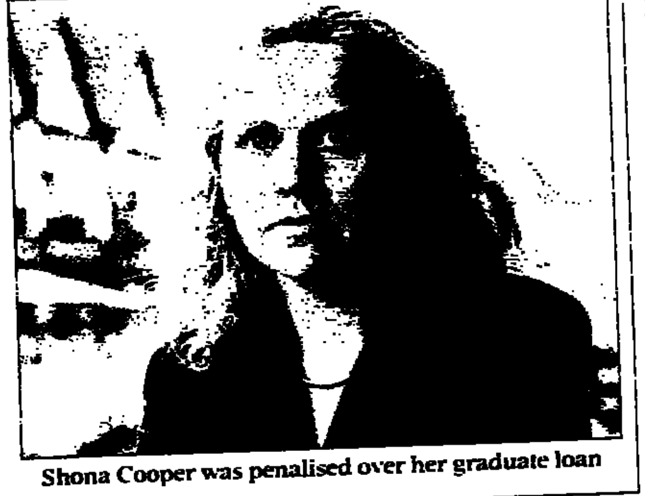
Already recent graduates may be finding that their borrowings, though modest, are making it more difficult for them to become homeowners. Shona Cooper, a civil engineer, found herself rejected by Bristol & West's direct mortgage division because she has still has to repay £650 of a £1,200 loan from the Government's Student Loan Scheme. B&W declined to process her application, saying her £20-a-month repayment was a "committed outgoing". It also objected to her having exceeded her £500 overdraft by £5 for a few days.

Miss Cooper has a full-time job with prospects at the company that sponsored her through university. She said: "I applied to B&W because I was attracted by a particular offer — a two-year fixed rate at 5.69 per cent. I wanted to borrow £52,000, 84 per cent of the property's value."

After the intervention of *The Times*, B&W agreed to grant the loan. At Miss Cooper's request, it also waived the £250 arrangement fee.

ANNE ASHWORTH

TONY WHITE


Shona Cooper was penalised over her graduate loan

Branch costs push Halifax way behind the opposition

Karen Zagor looks at Halifax's new range of interest rates

With much fanfare, the Halifax has now announced new rates for savers, to take effect from Monday. Any increase in savings rates is to be applauded, but the rises are generally not enough to make the Halifax the best home for a saver's money.

Rates on most Halifax savings accounts will rise by 0.25 percentage points, mimicking the 0.25 point rise in base rates. This includes the 60-Day Gold account, Matured Tessa 2 and Young Savers accounts. A few, such as amounts over £25,000 in the Solid Gold account and deposits of more than £10,000 and under £25,000 in a Bonus Gold account, are improving by 0.30 percentage points, exceeding the base rate rise. Some, however, such as deposits above £10,000 in the Liquid Gold account, rise by just 0.20 percentage points.

After the changes, savers with £2,500 will get 3.95 per cent in a Liquid Gold account, 4.10 per cent in a Solid Gold account, 4.10 per cent in a 60-Day Gold account and 5.35 per cent in Bonus Gold.

A similar amount in an Abbey National Bonus Postal account would earn 6.95 per cent, provided the balance did not fall below £2,000. The Woolwich's Postal 60 would pay 6.40 per cent, on the same balance but allows only one penalty-free withdrawal a year. However, the best instant-access account for deposits of £2,500, according to research by Moneyfacts, remains Cheltenham & Gloucester's Instant Transfer account, which has a new rate of 7 per cent from Monday (up from 6.75 per cent). It is operated by telephone in tandem with your ordinary bank account at any bank.

Other attractive new rates are available from the Nationwide, which is offering 6.70 per cent on balances of £5,000, and Coventry Building Society, which pays 7 per cent on balances of £5,000 and above in its First Instant Postal Account.

Some of the non-banks are offering very attractive instant-access accounts. Direct Line's rates start at 5.35 per cent for balances as low as £1. Rates rise steadily on amounts above £5,000. The account is operated by telephone. Sainsburys Bank pays 6.5 per cent on balances starting at £1. Scottish Widows Bank pays 6.65 per cent on deposits above £500 in its instant-access postal account, with sums above £5,000 earning even more. The account can be operated by telephone. Legal & General's Direct Access postal account pays 6.70 per cent on £2,500, but minimum withdrawal is £500.

Part of the Halifax's problem, when it comes to competitive savings rates, is that its accounts are branch-based, rather than postal or telephone-operated. It costs more to run a branch-based service, so consumers effectively pay for the service by receiving lower rates.

The Halifax is more competitive on its interest-paying cheque account, which pays 4.6 per cent on £5,000, beating the 4.25 per cent from a competitive product at Bank of Scotland, 2.25 per cent at the Woolwich and 1.98 per cent at Abbey National. However, the Halifax account lags behind the 6.20 per cent paid by Investec Bank (UK) on a similar account, and the 5 per cent on Charterhouse Bank's World Currency instant access account.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	792.50	844.20	-19.30	2.25
General Inc	657.40	699.40	15.30	2.25
UK Growth Acc	548.30	583.30	12.60	2.17
UK Growth Inc	350.90	372.90	-3.00	2.17
Higher Inc Acc #	977.80	1040.30	-12.40	5.54
Higher Inc Inc #	512.50	545.70	6.60	5.54
Gilts Fxd Int Acc	220.60	235.00	-0.50	5.40
Gilts Fxd Int Inc	95.00	100.30	-0.20	5.40
Nth America	420.80	447.70	-13.70	
Europe	425.20	452.40	-16.20	0.04
Smi Europe	109.50	116.20	-2.00	2.35
Bnd Fndmtls Acc	134.70	143.30	-1.30	4.22
Bnd Fndmtls Inc	88.85	94.53	0.91	4.20
Global Opps	114.50	121.90	4.40	
Balanced Acc	71.13	75.68	-1.64	2.09
Balanced Inc	55.77	59.95	1.72	2.08
Japan Acc	41.30	43.94	-2.53	
Pac Basin Acc	370.90	394.60	40.30	0.94
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	136.70	145.00	-0.19	6.35
High Inc Equity	209.90	223.40	-5.30	3.34
Worldwide Bond	267.30	283.50	-4.30	3.92
American Growth	511.90	546.30	-15.90	0.21
Asian Pacific	312.70	329.10	-20.80	0.41
Assets & Earnings	329.30	351.10	-6.70	2.88
Euro Capital Acc	229.00	244.30	13.10	0.81
Extra Inc	43.54	46.22	0.06	9.48
General	301.20	320.40	-5.70	2.87
Global Opps	81.20	86.42	-2.10	0.46
Japan	96.54	102.62	-6.50	
Managed Inc	51.09	54.35	-0.75	4.14
Managed	197.50	210.50	-7.40	1.11
US Emerging Cos	215.30	230.20	-4.50	
Ethical	87.55	92.79	-0.67	1.97
International	151.30	161.00	-5.10	0.54
Dividend & Growth	77.11	82.03	1.92	4.10
Global Gwth & Sec	77.37	82.62	-0.23	1.43
Latin America	96.73	102.30	-3.60	0.39
Capital Reserve	150.10	150.10	+0.19	4.66
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 9500				
NAP UK Growth	105.90	112.60	2.50	2.12
Equity Income *	146.50	155.90	2.30	3.72
Extra Income *	281.31	299.10	-3.90	6.10
Smaller Cos	106.10	112.30		1.76
International	129.40	136.50	5.10	1.34
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Extra Income Acc	31.63	33.56	-0.06	6.69
European Gwth	77.32	81.92	-4.81	0.20
Evergreen	34.16	36.53	0.95	
General Equity	125.91	130.78	-2.28	2.46
Japan Growth	40.70	43.30	-3.36	
Preference Gwth	73.75	78.04	-1.22	1.83
Pvt Sm Cos Inc	40.19	42.53	+0.11	1.54
-do- Accum	43.04	45.55	+0.12	1.54
Retirement Inc #	31.83	33.91	-0.50	5.46
Special Sits	52.46	56.41	-0.78	2.84
UK & Overseas	68.42	72.40	-1.26	0.47
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	77.76	81.00†	-1.30	3.87
Capital	95.19	99.14†	-2.35	2.22
High Income	54.17	56.42†	-0.07	6.56
Top 50	67.56	70.37†	-1.43	2.29
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPI FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	213.10	227.00	-2.62	4.35
Long Gilt	47.22	49.17	+0.16	5.81
Monthly Inc Plus	53.03	55.29	-0.34	7.96
Preference Share	51.77	53.83	+0.13	7.23
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	154.34	160.79	-4.72	5.57
Managed Fund	84.00	87.50	-2.56	2.58
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.66	53.84	-0.17	1.56
-do- Accum	61.80	64.39	-0.16	1.58
UK & General	115.13	119.94	-2.24	2.34
-do- Accum	152.62	159.00	-2.96	2.34
UK Growth	228.52	238.07	-3.83	1.65
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	248.75	259.16	-11.33	0.52
Far Eastern Gth	126.63	131.92	-12.62	0.21
Global Bond	74.09	77.17	-0.75	6.66
Japan Growth	103.91	108.25	-6.60	
North Amer Gth	292.46	304.65	-11.31	
Oriental Growth	79.31	82.62	-9.66	0.59
Worldwide Growth	50.62	52.93	-1.66	0.51
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPI FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	95.21	90.21	-0.08	6.04
Homemaker Fund	100.22	102.63	-3.12	2.02
Quilter Fund	172.23	180.22†	-3.27	1.75
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	38.80	41.50†	-0.61	3.06
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	195.60	208.10	-0.30	1.72

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Growth	10.39	11.02	-1.40	0.43
Emg Mkts Gwth	87.37	92.70	-6.01	..
Japan Growth	51.18	54.30	-4.28	
Dealing: 01277 842626				
Gwth Port Inc	80.14	84.58	-2.08	0.62
Gwth Port Acc	81.48	85.99	-2.10	0.62
Inc Port Inc	71.45	75.41†	-0.71	3.61
Inc Port Acc	81.74	86.27†	-0.80	3.51
Wwide Port	65.16	68.77	-2.20	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 395				
Equity Dist @	698.40	698.40	-14.90	2.11
-do- Accum @	1456.00	1456.00	-31.00	2.12
Equity Income #	115.90	115.90†	-1.00	4.75

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Leaders Inc	433.14	460.79	-6.04	1.57
Intl Leaders	278.52	294.17	-7.02	0.80
PAM Mg Bal Grth	76.41	79.55	-1.74	0.33
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	335.60	363.50	-15.10	.
-do- Accum	358.80	378.00	-16.10	
American Opps	139.60	148.30	-1.50	.
-do- Accum	141.30	150.00	-1.80	..
British Blue Chip	115.50	122.78	-2.60	2.45
-do- Accum	150.60	160.00	-3.40	2.45
Cash	100.68	100.68	+0.10	6.47
-do- Accum *	154.40	154.40	+0.10	6.47
Emerging Mkts	158.18	170.00	-10.50	0.18
-do- Accum	160.30	172.40	-10.80	0.16

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* Source: Micropal.

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Tactical Allocn @	81.05	81.05	-1.35	5.09
European @	170.30	170.30†	-7.10	
Far Eastern @	218.70	218.70	-18.00	..
Fixed Interest @	57.23	57.23	-0.02	6.57
Gilt @	95.54	95.54	+0.08	6.09
Global Growth @	88.25	88.25	-3.40	.
Intl Bond @	48.81	48.81†	-0.50	5.00
Japanese @	63.21	63.21	-4.77	
North American @	274.20	274.20	-10.37	.
Pacific Growth @	116.70	116.70	-13.00	0.07
Pacific Index @	43.33	43.33	-4.77	2.15
UK Index @	91.04	91.04	-1.98	2.65
UK Recovery @	129.20	129.20	-2.00	1.43
UK Smaller Cos @	168.70	168.70†	-0.40	1.22
US Index @	107.30	107.30	-4.00	0.75
European Index @	107.40	107.40†	-4.40	0.97

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European Growth	391.90	414.80†	-19.10	0.46
-do- Accum	427.80	452.80†	-20.90	0.46
European Income	98.43	104.00	-3.40	3.90
-do- Accum	148.30	156.80	-5.00	3.90
General	676.70	719.40	-17.20	2.19
-do- Accum	1400.80	1491.00	-35.00	2.19
Global Bond	128.30	134.90	-1.60	4.02
-do- Accum	174.40	183.30	-1.30	4.02
Gold & General	163.60	175.40	-3.90	0.42
-do- Accum	169.30	181.50	-4.10	0.42
Govt Securities	97.67	100.60	...	5.78
-do- Accum	214.90	221.50	.	5.78
High Yield Bd	106.10	108.70	-0.10	6.53
-do- Accum	117.40	120.30	-0.20	6.53
Income	221.80	236.00†	-3.70	3.81
-do- Accum	381.00	405.30†	-6.30	3.81

هكذا من الأصل

Equities close off the bottom

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
490	407½	Allied Domecq	466½	+ ½	5.8	14.0
626	410	Bulmer (HP)t	417½		4.3	11.6
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	46	+ ½	9.2	11.5
1040	865	Glenmorangie 'A'	975	..	1.7	24.1
631	425½	Grand Met	566½	− 10	3.3	18.2
627	424	Guinness	546½	− 12	3.7	15.6
380	307½	Highland Dist	312½	− 4	3.4	14.6
336	232	Matthew Clark	232		12.7	7.1
109½	52½	Maydon Int	60		6.5	14.8
2009¾	1462½	SA Breweries	1840½	− 9¾	2.0	..

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1225	− 53½	2.6	17.4
971	710	Abbey Natl	830	− 7½	4.2	13.8
655	532½	Alliance & Leic	628	..	3.2	14.6
563	398½	Allied Irish	520½	− 2½	3.5	14.8
480½	363½	Aus New Z	443	− 21¾	4.3	
4671½	2876	Bank America	4112½	− 85¾		
452	291½	Bank Scotland	416	+ 7	2.5	12.7
1462	978½	Barclays	1412½	− 8	3.0	13.4
764	517½	Bk of Ireland	703	− 4½	2.8	15.5
8828½	6006½	Citicorp	7806½	− 312½		
1759¾	1289¾	Commerzbk	1662½	− 9¾	1.8	
862½	558½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	721½	− 39½	0.6	
4321½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3690½	− 75	1.7	
1300	759½	Espirito Santo	1268½	− 8¾	2.9	
947½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	757½	− 34½	0.6	
2368½	1272½	HSBC	1929	− 40½	3.0	15.6
2258½	1241	HSBC HK	1835	− 52	3.1	14.9
783	701½	Halifax	707	− 8	2.6	23.8
610	483½	Irish Perm	598		2.8	16.2
783½	424	Lloyds TSB	723	− 1½	2.5	21.1
912½	689½	Nat Aust Bk	856	− 13¾	4.7	11.8
896½	663½	Nat West	787½	− 2	4.8	12.4
665	508	Ry Bk Scot	586	− 6	4.1	12.8
1093½	681	Stand Chart	826½	− 47½	2.3	14.4
£164¾	£154½	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	357½	− 10½	4.2	

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TEXTILES & APPAREL

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101½	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	100	1	8.75	6.70
106	101	Exch 15% 1997	101		14.93	6.97
103	100	Exch 9¾% 1998	100	−	9.66	7.06
103	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	102		7.24	7.12
101	100	Treas 14% 1998-01	104	−	13.37	7.16
110	104	Treas 15½% 1998	109	−	14.29	7.17
114	108	Exch 12% 1998	105	−	11.38	7.17
109	105	Treas 9½% 1999	102		9.23	7.17
105	102	Exch 12¼% 1999	107		11.41	7.13
111	107	Treas 10½% 1999	105	−	9.97	7.02
108	105	Treas 6% 1999	99		6.11	7.13
99	96	Conv 10¼% 1999	100	−	9.65	7.03
109	106	Conv 9% 2000	104		8.53	7.07
106	104	Treas 8% 2000	102	−	7.79	7.14
104	102	Treas 8½% 2000	102		9.26	7.15
104	102	Treas 13% 2000	114	−	11.32	7.13
115	114	Treas 10% 2001	108		9.20	7.08
112	95	Treas 7% 2001	99	−	7.32	
101	98					

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101	97	Treas 7% 2002	99	+	7.01	7.13
122	109	Treas 9¾% 2002	110		8.80	7.13
105	102	Treas 9% 2003	104	−	7.57	7.09
115	111	Treas 10% 2003	113	−	8.79	7.13
116	113	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113		10.14	7.15
87	82	Fund 3½% 1999-04	87		4.06	5.92
114	109	Conv 9½% 2004	113		8.39	7.11
99	94	Treas 6¾% 2004	98		6.97	7.06
109	104	Treas 8½% 2005	108	−	7.83	7.09
122	110	Conv 9½% 2005	113		9.35	7.13
129	124	Treas 12½% 2003-05	126		9.89	7.15
103	98	Treas 7¾% 2006	102		7.30	7.00
107	99	Treas 7¾% 2006	104	1 −	7.45	7.13
104	100	Treas 8% 2002-06	103		7.75	7.24
123	115	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120	−	9.78	7.15
111	105	Treas 8½% 2007	109		7.76	7.12
102	98	Treas 7¼% 2007	101		7.16	7.06
116	108	Treas 9% 2008	114		7.86	7.09
108	101	Treas 8% 2009	107		7.46	7.09

LONGS (over 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
95	86	Treas 6¼% 2010	92		6.74	7.10
118	109	Conv 9% 2011	116		7.72	7.10
119	109	Treas 9% 2012	117	1	7.68	7.10
89	80	Treas 5½% 2008-12	87	+	6.29	6.89
110	100	Treas 8% 2013	108	+	7.37	7.09
107	98	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	105	+	7.33	7.11
111	101	Treas 8% 2015	109	−	7.28	7.02
120	107	Treas 8¾% 2017	117		7.40	7.06
113	101	Tr 8% 2021	111		7.17	6.99

UNDATED

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
50	43	War Ln 3½%	49	−	7.07	
35	30	Treas 2½%	34	−	7.21	
55	49	Consols 4%	54	+	7.32	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114	113	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114	+		1.93
197	184	Treas IL 2½% 2001	187	−	2.94	3.62
184	180	Treas IL 2½% 2003	183		3.12	3.60
120	117	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	118		3.17	3.60
195	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	194		3.26	3.58
179	170	Treas IL 2½% 2009	175	−	3.27	3.53
183	176	Treas IL 2½% 2011	181	−	3.31	3.54
151	144	Treas IL 2½% 2013	150	−	3.34	3.53
161	153	Treas IL 2½% 2016	160	−	3.35	3.53
155	147	Treas IL 2½% 2020	154	−	3.40	3.55
129	122	Treas IL 2½% 2024	128	−	3.42	3.56
126	119	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	125	−	3.41	3.55

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension, † Ex dividend, ‡ Ex scrip, ▲ Ex rights issue, ▼ Ex all, § Ex capital distribution, * Figures on re… analyst. No significant data. Companies in bold … constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

RACING: WOODS-TRAINED JUVENILE LOOKS LIKELY SORT FOR DONCASTER'S RACING POST TROPHY

Little Indian braves uphill battle

JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Little Indian, right, gets the better of Tracking in a thrilling finish to the Solario Stakes at Sandown yesterday

BY CHRIS McGRATH

IN THE United States, racecourses lack variety. Without hesitation or deviation, but with endless repetition, horses labour round a treadmill of level, sharp, left-handed circuits. At Sandown yesterday, Little Indian reminded the British racing public of their contrasting good fortune.

The colt's previous race had been over the downland of Goodwood, where he finished strongly but was still beaten nearly five lengths. In yesterday's Solario Stakes, he faced a much stiffer finish — and that enabled him to get decisively involved, pouncing late up the hill to collar Tracking by half a length. Haami, the favourite, rather wobbled off the bridle and was beaten another two lengths.

Little Indian earned quotes of 33-1 for the 2,000 Guineas and Derby, but the Tote cut Central Park, who had beaten him so emphatically at Goodwood, to 9-1, from 12-1, for the Guineas, though you can still get 14-1 with Ladbrokes. King Of Kings, that most garrulous of talking horses, is now out to 8-1 (from 6-1) with both firms. Sharp Play was second to him at the Curragh two weeks ago, but yesterday beat only one home — and that was Celtic Cavalier, who happens to be a stablemate of King Of Kings.

Ladbrokes took the opportunity to cut Daggers Drawn a point, to 5-1 favouritism, after his galloping companion, Tracking, had tried so bravely to make all. He looked like pulling it off, too, as Little Indian only really found his stride when pulled out inside the last.

Sean Woods, Little Indian's trainer, said: "He does need daylight. At Goodwood, they slowed up and then quickened, but he still made up eight lengths once he got it. It's only being trained by me that allowed him to go off 12-1. John Reid said that he quickened up really well. He is still learning about the job, and is very lazy."

Woods himself may still be learning his own job, but there is certainly nothing lazy about the way he is working his way up the second division of Newmarket's trainers. He made the most of Mistle Cat, and now he has a very sensible sort of horse for the Racing Post Trophy. Quite a discovery, too — he is by Little Missouri, an American stallion who is thoroughly obscure over here.

Obscurity looms menacingly for Haami, in whose defence it can at least be said that he was still green. John Dunlop, his trainer, said: "I was frightened about the ground, but would hesitate to use that as an excuse. He came there so easily, but when he was let down — well." Well, he was a total let-down.

The unbeaten Almutawakel was withdrawn from the Solario, which must have made Frankie Dettori fear that his day was going from bad to worse. He had, in the morning, already lost a £300 deposit for detaining the Jockey Club with a fruitless appeal against the five-day ban he picked up for irresponsible riding at Goodwood last Saturday.

It starts on Monday, but the Italian is doing his best to insure against any loss of momentum in his championship duel with Kieren Fallon. Fallon, one ahead at the start of proceedings, won on Shawm, but his rival promptly retrieved the advantage by completing a 39-1 treble — courtesy of Shaska, Siege Perilous and Azores.

Dragonada can regain winning thread over mile

SANDOWN PARK
CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.35: Dragonada looks solid each-way material against some lightly raced and potentially useful fillies who could go off at short prices. Henry Cecil's runner won on the easy ground at Epsom on her seasonal reappearance in June and was far from disgraced in group two company at Newmarket and in a listed race at Salisbury before running out of stamina when second to Dust Dancer over a mile and quarter last time. The step back to a mile on this stiff track should suit.

Dances With Dreams started the season contesting the French Guineas and Oaks, but was disappointing at Chepstow in a listed race five weeks ago. Hirasah made light of being out of action for more than a year when winning over course and distance 17 days ago and is open to improvement along with Geoff Wragg's Egoli, who impressed when winning a maiden here on her recent debuty.

3.40: Moon Strike, with Frankie Dettori booked, returned a career best effort when winning the Coral Cup at Haydock three weeks ago. Significantly, his two other victories over the past year came on easy ground and stiff tracks (Newcastle and Newmarket), so conditions are ideal today.

However, I just prefer **Soviet Leader**, who is running for the first time since being gelded. A winner on good to soft ground at Nottingham in the spring, he is well treated at the weights judged on his good third last time behind Danetime at Newmarket and the excellent Royston Ffrench claims a useful 3lb.

Taoiste, well drawn in stall one, has claims on his third to Faith Alone over course and distance 45 days ago, but may prefer better ground.

4.10: The blinkered Mengaab fought back well to win at Goodwood last Friday, having been headed a furlong out, and should not be inconvenienced by today's extra quarter mile. Stahr is another to have benefited from the application of headgear, having won his last two starts at Folkestone, including one on easy going. Nichol Fifty should relish the conditions, being by Old Vic, and the extra distance is in his favour after staying on stoutly to claim the spoils at Chester last time.

Royal Castle has been off the course for 80 days but fitness will hopefully not be a problem for this superbly-bred colt, who should relish this stamina test. By Caerleon, he is out of Sun Princess, the 1983 Oaks and St Leger winner, and really appreciated the step up to a mile and a half last time after showing plenty of promise in three earlier outings.

Cecil: solid chance

4.45: Cugina is arguably the form horse judged on her victory at Chepstow on easy ground. However, that came in a fillies' handicap, where she ran in snatches, and today's race looks tougher. Roufontaine finished in front of Voila Premiere at Chepstow, but the latter was returning after a lay-off and can reverse the placings. **Song Of Freedom** has yet to encounter going this testing, but the Arazi colt, a half-brother to Singspiel, is progressive and looks worth following after winning at Newbury last time out.

RICHARD EVANS

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SURVEYOR
(2.10 Chester)
Next best: Cease Fire
(2.30 Ripon)

Timekeeper (James Willoughby) pinpointed Little Indian (12-1), the Solario Stakes winner, at Sandown yesterday.

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 Pianist
2.35 Fakhr
3.05 Dragonada
3.40 Patsy Grimes
4.10 Nichol Fifty
4.45 **VOILA PREMIERE** *(nap)*
5.20 Khazinat El Dar

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.00 **GREENBROOK**.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 *Kilimanjaro*.
5.20 **ENCORE** (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 CHIEF BARKERS SELLING NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £2,596: 7f 16yd) (10 runners)

101	(3)	003210	GREENBROOK 14 (D,S) (Mrs L Green) W G M Turner 9-7	D Sweeney (3)	74
102	(10)	0640	PERSIAN VENTURE 28 (Mrs B Bell) B Meehan 9-5	C Lowther (5)	66
103	(8)	5003	CATCH THE RAINBOW 35 (J Smyth-Osbourne) J Smyth-Osbourne 9-0	F Lynch	60
104	(9)	4544014	MARSKE MACHINE 10 (B,G) (Marske Machine Co) N Tinkler 8-13	L Dettori	68
105	(7)	0562	PIANIST 11 (G Pritchard) G Lewis 8-11	Paul Eddery	66
106	(5)	0512605	ARM AND A LEG 28 (V,F) (Mrs R Aggio) C Dwyer 8-11	D O'Donohoe (3)	63
107	(5)	01	JATO DANCER 33 (D,F) (Timberhill Ptnrs) M Channon 8-10	Pat Eddery	60
108	(2)	004	FRANCESCA'S FOLLY 17 (F Brenstock) J Hills 8-6	R Hills	59
109	(1)	035	ZIG ZAG 94 (Miss C Hollest) M Tompkins 8-3	D Biggs	60
110	(6)	4000	RIVER FRONTIER 15 (Dr I Shenkin) M Usher 7-10	J Marshall	50

Long handicap: River Frontier 7-7

BETTING: 7-2 Jato Dancer, 9-2 Marske Machine, 6-1 Greenbrook, 7-1 Pianist, 8-1 Persian Venture, Zig Zag, 10-1 Catch The Rainbow, Arm And A Leg, Francesca's Folly, 16-1 River Frontier

1996: RUN LUCY RUN 9-2 G Duffield (8-1) R Guest 13 ran

FORM FOCUS Greenbrook 10l 7th to Ra Ra Rasputin in 6f Wolverhampton stakes (all-weather). Persian Venture 17l 10th to Merlin's Ring in 7f Goodwood handicap (good to firm). Catch The Rainbow 18l 3rd to Sunley Seeker in 7f Southwell maiden stakes (all-weather). Marske Machine 4¾l 4th to Russian Romeo in 6f Leicester seller (good). Pianist ¾l 2nd to Won't Forget Me in 7f Folkestone seller (good to firm). Arm And A Leg 5¾l 5th to Bermuda Triangle in 6f Lingfield seller (good to firm). Jato Dancer beat Wedding Band 1¾l in 7f Brighton seller (good to firm). Francesca's Folly 3½l 4th to Wildcat in 7f Salisbury claimer (good to firm). Zig Zag 3½l 5th to Arm And A Leg (3lb worse off) in 5f Yarmouth seller (firm). River Frontier 5¼l 8th to Beechwood Quest in 5f Southwell seller (all-weather)

ARM AND A LEG should appreciate the return to seven furlongs

2.35 VINTAGE INNS DISTRICT 48 TOP TEN CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,305: 1m 14yd) (4 runners)

201	(4)	1	ABUHAIL 42 (F) (H al-Maktoum) D Morley 9-0	L Dettori	92
202	(3)	1	FAKHR 49 (F) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0	R Hills	95
203	(1)	4	KILIMANJARO 14 (Lord Lloyd Webber) M Stoute 8-11	Pat Eddery	82
204	(2)	01	COLLEVILLE 19 (G) (R Powter) M Jarvis 8-6	W Ryan	90

BETTING: 11-10 Fakhr, 9-4 Kilimanjaro, 9-2 Abuhail, 7-1 Colleville

1996: MEDAALY 9-0 J Reid (4-9 fav) S bin Suroor 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Abuhail beat Eljanah 1¼l in 7f Redcar maiden (good to firm). Fakhr shaped as though this trip would suit when beating Royal Bounty ¾l in 7f Salisbury maiden (good to firm). Kilimanjaro 5l 4th to Mahboob in 7f Newbury maiden stakes (good to firm). Colleville stayed on strongly to beat Mustique Dream 3l in 7f Leicester maiden stakes (good)

FAKHR gets the vote but all the runners are likely to improve on the bare form

3.05 FORD 21 YEARS CELEBRATION ATALANTA STAKES — C4
(Listed race: £11,523: 1m 14yd) (14 runners)

301	(6)	500-014	POLISH RHYTHM 53 (D,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 4-9-0	D O'Donohoe	84
302	(1)	4305062	SALLY SLADE 9 (F,G,S) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 5-9-0	R Ffrench	85
303	(2)	0-00223	UNCONDITIONAL LOVE 15 (F) (Mrs H Conroy) M Johnston 4-9-0	M Roberts	110
304	(3)	4303311	APACHE STAR 13 (V,D,F,S) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 3-8-6	Paul Eddery	104
305	(9)	4016-03	BOOJUM 106 (F,S) (Mrs A Bourne) B Hills 3-8-8	J D Smith	100
306	(10)	12-403	DANCES WITH DREAMS 36 (S) (A Gillespie) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-8	R Havlin	118
307	(5)	313-320	DANCING DROP 53 (BF,F,G) (M Suhail) R Hannon 3-8-8	W J O'Connor	110
308	(7)	14-1422	DRAGONADA 17 (BF,F,S) (Niarchos Family) H Cecil 3-8-8	W Ryan	123
309	(14)	1	EGOLI 16 (C,F) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 3-8-8	A Clark	77+
310	(13)	1-1	HIRASAH 17 (CD,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) R Armstrong 3-8-8	R Hills	96+
311	(12)	5150	JAFN 51 (F) (H al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 3-8-8	S Drowne	96
312	(4)	612-055	KHASSAH 52 (D,F) (H al-Maktoum) J Gosden 3-8-8	L Dettori	111
313	(11)	131155	MARA RIVER 31 (C,D,F,G) (N Harris) I Balding 3-8-8	C Lowther	107
314	(8)	1-	ONE SO WONDERFUL 358 (G) (H Springfield Ltd) L Cumani 3-8-8	Pat Eddery	94+

BETTING: 4-1 Dragonada, 5-1 Khassah, 6-1 Dances With Dreams, Hirasah, 7-1 One So Wonderful, 8-1 others

1996: WANDERING STAR 3-8-8 N Day (12-1) J Fanshawe 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Unconditional Love 1¾l 3rd to Decorated Hero in 7f Newbury group III race (good to firm). Apache Star beat Antarctic Storm 1½l in 1m Pontefract handicap (good to firm). Dances With Dreams 1¾l 3rd to 1¼m Chepstow listed race at Chepstow (good to firm). Dragonada 5l 2nd to Dust Dancer in 1¼m fillies' listed race at Salisbury (good to firm). Egoli beat Warning Express 3½l in maiden fillies' stakes at Sandown (good to firm). Hirasah beat Cape Cross neck in 5-runner 1m Sandown (good). Khassah 8¾l 5th to Ryafan in 1m Newmarket group II stakes (1m, good). One So Wonderful quickened impressively to beat Alphabel 3½l in 7f Kempton fillies' stakes (7f, good).

ONE SO WONDERFUL can confirm the good impression made at Kempton last season

3.40 MARSHALL AMPLIFICATION RATED HANDICAP — C4
(£6,697: 5f 6yd) (10 runners)

401	(4)	65-2131	MOON STRIKE 21 (D,F,G,S) (A Foustok) P Howling 7-9-7	L Dettori	103
402	(8)	50-4600	LOCH PATRICK 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Miss E L Collet) M Madgwick 7-9-3	W Ryan	96
403	(5)	140000	REPERTORY 60 (D,G) (M Saunders) M Saunders 4-8-10	S Drowne	91
404	(3)	6000652	PATSY GRIMES 7 (D,F,G,S) (J Grimes) J S Moore 7-8-10	M Roberts	104
405	(10)	104-050	CAERFILLY DANCER 70 (F) (Bickerstaff Woolsey Ltd) R Akehurst 3-8-9	Pat Eddery	90
406	(2)	3426010	WILLOW DALE 7 (D,F,S) (M Jackson B'stock Ltd) D Elsworth 4-8-7	Paul Eddery	111
407	(1)	0040030	TAOISTE 29 (D,G) (P Shing Woo) R Armstrong 4-8-7	R Price	102
408	(9)	0-16050	YOUDONTSAY 5 (D,F,S) (T Nicholls) T Naughton 5-8-7	D O'Donohoe (3)	114
409	(6)	013403	SOVIET LEADER 53 (S) (Matthews Racing) R Guest 3-8-5	R Ffrench (3)	100
410	(7)	0006205	RUDI'S PET 29 (B,BF,CD,G) (Broadgate Ptnrs) R Hannon 3-8-5	C Lowther (5)	97

Long handicap: Willow Dale 8-5, Taoiste 8-3, Youdontsay 8-3, Soviet Leader 8-3, Rudi's Pet 8-1

BETTING: 11-4 Moon Strike, 3-1 Soviet Leader, 5-1 Patsy Grimes, 6-1 Willow Dale, 8-1 Caerfilly Dancer, 10-1 others

1996: CROWDED AVENUE 4-9-5 S Sanders (7-1) P Makin 13 ran

FORM FOCUS Moon Strike beat Midnight Escape neck in 5f Haydock handicap (good to firm). Loch Patrick 4¼l 8th to Young Precedent in 7f Newbury handicap (good to firm). Patsy Grimes sh hd 2nd to Sharp Pearl in 5f Newmarket amateur handicap (good to firm). Youdontsay 7¼l 8th to Gaelic Storm in 5f Epsom handicap (good). Soviet Leader 2¾l 3rd to Danetime in 6f Newmarket handicap (good)

LOCH PATRICK can put his finishing kick to good use

4.10 SUNLEY HANDICAP (£3,225: 1m 6f) (18 runners) — C4

501	(4)	055140	TRAMLINE 52 (S) (H C Promotions Ltd) M Blanshard 4-10-0	D Sweeney (3)	94
502	(15)	05-0000	STORY LINE 42 (S) (Story Line Partnership) D Arbuthnot 4-10-0	R Ffrench (3)	85
503	(14)	604-103	PRINCE KINSKY 91 (F) (Mrs A Bickel) J Old 4-10-0	M Roberts	88
504	(12)	0005130	MAGIC COMBINATION 32 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 4-9-11	A Clark	82
505	(1)	515	ULTIMATE SMOOTHIE 21 (D,F) (Isca Bloodstock) M Pipe 5-9-11	R Hills	91
506	(10)	3060151	PARADISE NAVY 9 (B,D,F,G) (Elite RC) C Egerton 8-9-10	L Masterson (7)	92
507	(8)	3061	HEIGHT OF HEIGHTS 29 (D,F) (Mrs D Haynes) Lady Herries 4-9-10	DOUBTFUL	—
508	(9)	0030	CAPSOFF 53 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 4-9-9	D O'Donohoe (3)	81
509	(16)	-453461	MENGAAB 8 (B,F) (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) J Gosden 3-9-9	L Dettori	92
510	(7)	133400-	SHOOTING LIGHT 170J (S) (J Brown) P Murphy 4-9-8	S Drowne	—
511	(17)	0-03500	ARCTIC FANCY 42 (D,S) (Cool Customers) P Harris 4-9-7	C Lowther (5)	108
512	(3)	5642215	DURHAM 8 (B,D,F,G) (Secret Partnership) G L Moore 6-9-1	M Wigham	91
513	(13)	0-051	ROYAL CASTLE 88 (F) (Lord Weinstock) W Hern 3-8-12	W Ryan	88
514	(18)	2142001	GALAPINO 82 (F) (Glendale Partnership Ltd) Gay Kelleway 4-8-12	R Mullen (5)	85
515	(11)	00-0311	STAHR 47 (B,F,S) (Mrs D Blackburn) H Candy 3-8-11	C Rutter	89
516	(6)	0-00521	NICHOL FIFTY 50 (F) (L Bedeck) M Tompkins 3-8-9	D Biggs	94
517	(5)	2121315	GLOW FORUM 29 (F,S) (Miss J Aeckes & Ptnrs) L Montague Hall 6-8-6	F Lynch	81
518	(2)	231030	MR SPECULATOR 43 (F) (Speculators) J Banks 4-8-5	R Price	77

BETTING: 3-1 Royal Castle, 4-1 Mengaab, 7-1 Stahr, Nichol Fifty, 8-1 Magic Combination, 10-1 others

1996: IVOR'S FLUTTER 7-10-0 D Griffiths (16-1) D Elsworth 12 ran

FORM FOCUS Prince Kinsky 5l 3rd to Roisin Clover in 1½m Kempton handicap (good to firm). Paradise Navy beat Action Jackson ½l in 1¾m Yarmouth ladies handicap (good to firm). Mengaab beat Urgent Swift sh hd in 1½m Goodwood handicap (good to firm). Galapino beat Pay Homage neck in 1½m Warwick handicap (good to firm). Stahr beat Trooper neck in 1½m Folkestone handicap (good to firm). Nichol Fifty beat Ship Jig sh hd in 1½m Chester stakes (good to firm).

NICHOL FIFTY shapes as though this longer trip will suit

4.45 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP — C4
(£4,840: 1m 2f 7yd) (20 runners)

601	(6)	636-501	GRIEF 20 (D,G) (M Balcomb) D Elsworth 4-10-0	R Ffrench (3)	95
602	(13)	0-01200	LOMBERTO 7 (C,D,F,S) (S Al Homeizi) V Soane 4-9-9	C Rutter	90
603	(9)	4-2151	SONG OF FREEDOM 15 (D,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-9-7	L Dettori	91
604	(20)	6122533	ROUFONTAINE 27 (CD,F,G,S) (Pencefield Stables) W Muir 6-9-3	R Havlin (3)	101
605	(17)	314	LIFE OF RILEY 71 (D,F) (J Manley) G Lewis 3-9-3	Paul Eddery	94
606	(12)	66120	PATRIOT GAMES 29 (F) (A Ingleby-Mackenzie) M Stoute 3-9-2	W Ryan	91
607	(4)	56130	KHAWAFI 31 (D,G) (H al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 3-9-1	R Hills	96
608	(8)	134000-	KINGS ASSEMBLY 325 (D,F,G,S) (Evenopoulos I) P Harris 5-9-0	A Clark	—
609	(16)	311340	CIRO'S PEARL 11 (D,F,G) (J Shannon) M Tompkins 3-8-12	D Biggs	100
610	(10)	0-40150	HAPPY GO LUCKY 31 (C,F,S) (Whitcombe Ltd) R O'Sullivan 3-8-12	D O'Donohoe (3)	80
611	(18)	0020603	EDAN HEIGHTS 13 (C,D,S) (T Mountain) S Dow 5-8-12	M Roberts	89
612	(19)	060-21	CUGINA 60 (D,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 3-8-10	S Drowne	98
613	(15)	561-000	FILIAL 18 (CD,F) (Miss J Semple) B Meehan 4-8-10	M Tebbutt	—
614	(3)	10-3340	TYPHOON EIGHT 10 (B,G) (M Sau) R Armstrong 5-8-10	R Price	99
615	(11)	244312	SHALATEENO 58 (D,F,G) (G Palmer) B Millman 4-8-8	A Whelan (3)	101
616	(2)	4221000	POKER SCHOOL 21 (G) (D Westley) N Callaghan 3-8-7	C Lowther (5)	—
617	(14)	210-334	VOILA PREMIERE 27 (G) (B Gause) P Murphy 5-8-5	R Mullen (5)	107
618	(1)	00-3000	DANEGOLD 18 (V,C,D,F,S) (Circular Dist Ltd) M Channon 5-8-3	F Norton	90
619	(7)	0-62321	YOUR MOST WELCOME 17 (D,F) (Mrs P Bedford) D Ffrench Davis 6-8-2	D McCabe	101
620	(5)	00-4	SWINGING THE BLUES 26 (Fairy Story Ptnrs) R Akehurst 3-7-10	P Fitzsimons (7)	—

Long handicap: Swinging The Blues 7-6

BETTING: 3-1 Song Of Freedom, 8-1 Cugina, Patriot Games, 10-1 Grief, Khawafi, Life Of Riley, 14-1 Edan Heights, Voila Premiere, 16-1 Poker School, Roufontaine, Shalateeno, Your Most Welcome, 20-1 others.

1996: NINIA 4-9-5 B Doyle (20-1) M Johnston 20 ran

FORM FOCUS Grief beat Wakeel ½l in 1½m Epsom handicap (good). Lomberto 20l 14th to Labeq in 1¼m Newmarket handicap (good to firm). Song Of Freedom beat Bali Paradise neck in 1¼m Newbury handicap (good to firm). Roufontaine 3¾l 3rd to Kewarra in 1¼m Chepstow handicap (good to firm) with Voila Premiere (1lb better off) 3¾l 4th. Life Of Riley 2¼l 4th to Travelmate in 1½m Newmarket handicap (good to soft). Patriot Games 10l 11th to Future Perfect in 1¼m Goodwood handicap (good to firm). Khawafi 6¾l 7th to Maylane in 1¼m Goodwood handicap (good to firm) with Happy Go Lucky (2lb better off) 15l 14th. Kings Assembly 32l 17th to Pasternak in 1¾m York handicap (good). Ciro's Pearl 55l 10th to Sausalito Bay in 1¾m York handicap (good). Edan Heights 5l 3rd to Supreme Sound in 1¼m Lingfield handicap (good to firm). Cugina beat Toi Toi 2l in fillies 1¼m Chepstow handicap (soft). Typhoon Eight 9¾l 7th to Ridaiyma in 1½m Kempton handicap (good) with Filial (6lb better off) 11l last. Shalateeno neck 2nd to Capilano Princess in 1¼m Chepstow fillies handicap (good to soft). Poker School 13l 16th to Neuwest in 7f Newmarket handicap (good to firm). Danegold 9¼l 10th to Pennys From Heaven in 1½m Bath handicap (good). Your Most Welcome beat Reheab ¾l in 1¼m Salisbury handicap (good to firm). Swinging The Blues 9¾l 4th to Alphabet in 1m Windsor maiden stakes (good)

SONG OF FREEDOM can continue to progress

5.20 OASIS LAKELAND VILLAGE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,225: 1m 14yd) (11 runners)

1	(8)	6044040	ALCALALI 10 (L Norris) P Kelleway 8-11	M Wigham	85
2	(3)	5-0	ARCO COLORA 45 (H Springfield Ltd) D Elsworth 8-11	A Procter	—
3	(5)		BESTEMOR (M Berger) H Candy 8-11	C Rutter	—
4	(7)	4	ENCORE 36 (Lord Hartington) J Gosden 8-11	L Dettori	66+
5	(6)	0-46	HIBERNICA 9 (T Waddington) G Balding 8-11	S Drowne	70
6	(1)	32	KHAZINAT EL DAR 26 (H al-Maktoum) W Hern 8-11	R Hills	75
7	(11)		LA BELLE OTERO (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) H Cecil 8-11	W Ryan	—
8	(9)	24	RUMUZ 38 (H al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-11	D O'Donohoe (3)	70
9	(4)	43035	SCEPTRE LADY 36 (BF) (Sceptre Racing) B Hills 8-11	Pat Eddery	88
10	(10)		SLIEU WHALLIAN (Barouche Stud Ltd) R Hannon 8-11	W J O'Connor	—
11	(2)		STAR GAMBIT (Mrs V Kraft Payson) R Akehurst 8-11	M Roberts	—

BETTING: 6-4 Khazinat El Dar, 3-1 La Belle Otero, 8-1 Encore, 10-1 Hibernica, Rumuz, 12-1 Alcalali, 14-1 Bestemor, 20-1 others.

1996: RUMY 8-11 W Carson (16-1) C Benstead 14 ran

FORM FOCUS Alcalali 16l 7th to My Emma in 1½m group I Yorkshire Oaks at York (good). Arco Colora 38l 7th to Blueygreen in 7f Yarmouth maiden stakes (good). Encore 6¾l 4th to Nominator Lad in 1m Nottingham maiden auction stakes (good to firm) with Sceptre Lady (levels) sh hd back in 5th. Hibernica 8l 6th to Northern Angel in 7f Salisbury maiden stakes (good to firm). Khazinat El Dar ½l 2nd to Alphabet in 1m Windsor maiden stakes (good). La Belle Otero, Nureyev filly, half-sister to several winners in the US, including a grade III winner. Rumuz 9½l 4th to Agony Aunt in 1¼m Sandown maiden auction stakes (good to firm). Slieu Whallian, In The Wings filly, half-sister to several winners on the Flat and over hurdles. Star Gambit, Defensive Play filly out of a mare who was a winner in the US.

ENCORE, who ran green on his debut, should improve for the experience

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Johnston	11	50	22.0	Pat Eddery	60	277	21.7
P Chapple-Hyam	6	28	21.4	L Dettori	49	237	20.7
J Gosden	24	116	20.7	M Roberts	26	182	14.3
J Dunlop	23	115	20.0	Only qualifiers			
I Balding	20	110	18.2				

CHESTER

THUNDERER

2.10 Jimmy Too. 2.45 Samwar. 3.15 Hunters Of Brora. 3.50 Kutta. 4.20 Dancing Feather. 4.55 Next Round.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 LINENHALL CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,764: 6f 18yd) (7 runners)

1	(7)	4031	EXBOURNE'S WISH 8 (D,G) B Hills 8-13	M Hills	83
2	(3)	313	JIMMY TOO 49 (C,S) B McMahon 9-13	J Fortune	76
3	(2)	15	SUIVEZ LA TRACE 36 (S) R Fahey 8-13	R Cochrane	79
4	(4)	41	SURVEYOR 13 (D,F) J Dunlop 8-13	T Sprake	91
5	(5)	4301	THE GROVELLER 14 P Evans 8-13	J F Egan	73
6	(6)	4220	WREKIN PILOT 10 (G) R Hannon 8-13	G Duffield	95
7	(1)	24	ALTHIB 42 (BF) M Stoute 8-10	S Sanders	73

7-4 Surveyor, 3-1 Wrekin Pilot, 5-1 Exbourne's Wish, 6-1 Suivez La Trace, 7-1 Jimmy Too, 8-1 Althib, 20-1 The Groveller

2.45 ROWTON MOOR HANDICAP
(£6,690: 5f 16yd) (13)

1	(3)	0000	SAMWAR 15 (G) M Channon 5-9-13	J Fortune	71
2	(8)	0003	SQUIRE CORRIE 7 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 5-9-13	G Duffield	77
3	(1)	2000	WESTCOURT MAGIC 26 (D,F,G) M W Easterby 4-9-11	S Sanders	84
4	(13)	2316	PALACEGATE TOUCH 15 (B,C,D,F) J Berry 7-9-10	T E Durcan (3)	71
5	(2)	000	BRAVEHEART 105 (D,G) M Channon 3-9-7	A Eddery (7)	61
6	(4)	0-60	MAZEED 169 (F) P Evans 4-9-7	A McCarthy (7)	—
7	(11)	3010	MALIBU MAN 7 (B,D,F,G) E Wheeler 5-9-6	T Sprake	80
8	(7)	0030	SWINO 29 (B,D,F) P Evans 3-9-4	J F Egan	82
9	(6)	1131	CROSS THE BORDER 2 (D,G) D Nicholls 4-9-3	Alex Greaves	87
10	(9)	2522	TUSCAN DAWN 5 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 7-8-12	P Roberts (5)	88
11	(5)	1000	SWAN AT WHALLEY 8 (CD,G) R Fahey 5-8-10	R Winston (7)	82
12	(12)	0560	UNSHAKEN 19 (D,S) E Alston 3-8-10	M Hills	68
13	(10)	0-20	LADY CAROLINE LAMB 17 (D,F) R Bastiman 4-8-3	J Quinn	84

5-2 Cross The Border, 7-2 Tuscan Dawn, 6-1 Westcourt Magic, 8-1 Squire Corrie, Malibu Man, 10-1 Palacegate Touch, Swino, 12-1 others

3.15 ROTHMANS ROYALS HANDICAP
(£7,932: 7f 122yd) (18)

1	(15)	4030	ALMOND ROCK 28 (D,G,S) J Fanshawe 5-9-10	R Cochrane	94
2	(2)	0010	CAVIAR ROYALE 9 (D,F,G) T Barron 3-9-7	M Hills	91
3	(13)	4626	ALBERT THE BEAR 1 (CD,F,S) J Berry 4-9-3	T E Durcan (3)	96
4	(1)	4000	HUNTERS OF BRORA 32 (CD,F,S) J Bethell 7-9-3	T Sprake	98
5	(6)	5030	VAN GURP 28 (D,G) B McMahon 4-8-13	J Fortune	95
6	(3)	0640	BAND ON THE RUN 21 (D,F,G) B McMahon 10-8-12	A McGlone	99
7	(8)	3153	SHARP SHUFFLE 21 (BF,D,F) R Hannon 4-8-10	G Duffield	99
8	(15)	00-6	MOSCOW MIST 9 (D,F) B Palling 6-8-9	P Roberts (5)	68
9	(10)	0065	KNAVE'S ASH 5 (F,G) D Nicholls 6-8-8	Alex Greaves	86
10	(9)	1310	QUEENS CONSUL 13 (D,F,G) B Rothwell 7-8-8	M Fenton	90
11	(16)	3135	MR SPONGE 14 (BF,F) I Balding 3-8-7	S Sanders	96
12	(14)	1351	CAPTAIN SCOTT 42 (D,F) J Glover 3-8-4	G Carter	100
13	(7)	0401	GULF SHAADI 16 (D,F) E Alston 5-8-1	J F Egan	93
14	(12)	1134	DEE PEE TEE CEE 7 (D,F) M W Easterby 3-7-12	Dale Gibson	96
15	(5)	0041	JEDI KNIGHT 19 (D,F,G) M W Easterby 3-7-10	J Quinn	105
16	(4)	0060	I CAN'T REMEMBER 42 (V,C,D,F,G,S) P Evans 3-7-10	A McCarthy (7)	90
17	(17)	4421	MYTTONS MISTAKE 7 (CD,F) A Bailey 4-7-10	P M Quinn (7)	98
18	(11)	1102	WENTBRIDGE LAD 1 (CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 7-7-10	D Williams (7)	97

5-1 Sharp Shuffle, 6-1 Mr Sponge, 7-1 Queens Consul, 8-1 Albert The Bear, Captain Scott, 10-1 Hunters Of Brora, Moscow Mist, Gulf Shaadi, 12-1 others

3.50 CHESTER RATED HANDICAP
(Listed race: £15,342: 1m 5f 89yd) (11)

1	(1)	5612	KUTTA 41 (D,F,G,S) R Armstrong 5-9-7	G Carter	106
2	(10)	6405	KEY TO MY HEART 21 (F,G,S) Miss S Hall 7-9-3	J F Egan	105
3	(5)	2120	TAUFAN'S MELODY 10 (F,G) Lady Herries 6-9-3	R Cochrane	108
4	(11)	4200	GREY SHOT 30 (F,G,S) I Balding 5-9-2	J Fortune	111
5	(4)	2244	FURTHER FLIGHT 10 (C,F,G,S) B Hills 11-9-1	M Hills	101
6	(8)	00-2	STAR SELECTION 119J (S) J Mackie 6-8-9	J Quinn	90
7	(6)	035	BEAUCHAMP JADE 29 (F,G) H Candy 5-8-6	A McGlone	94
8	(2)	4-15	MOHAWK RIVER 10 (G) M Stoute 4-8-7	S Sanders	112
9	(3)	0040	STATE FAIR 30 (C,F) B Hills 3-8-4	G Duffield	116
10	(9)	5110	RAINWATCH 51 (G,S) J Dunlop 3-8-2	T Sprake	107
11	(7)	2360	VAGABOND CHANTEUSE 17 (G) T Etherington 3-7-13	Dale Gibson	112

3-1 Kutta, 7-2 Further Flight, 9-2 Mohawk River, 6-1 Key To My Heart, Grey Shot, 10-1 Rainwatch, 12-1 Beauchamp Jade, 14-1 others

4.20 ROUGE ROSE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(£3,769: 1m 4f 66yd) (5)

1	(1)		SOSTENUTO R Hollinshead 4-9-7	D Griffiths (3)	—
2	(3)	05	CLASSIC FAN 17 M Channon 3-8-11	J F Egan	74
3	(2)	54	DANCING FEATHER 78 (BF) B Hills 3-8-11	M Hills	74
4	(4)	5	MISS VITA 7 R Williams 3-8-11	G Duffield	—
5	(5)	3222	NIGHTLARK 29 (BF) D Loder 3-8-11	R Cochrane	93

1-3 Nightlark, 3-1 Dancing Feather, 20-1 Classic Fan, 25-1 Miss Vita, 33-1 Sostenuto

4.55 EASTGATE CLOCK CENTENARY NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £5,605: 7f 2yd) (11)

1	(5)	415	NEXT ROUND 37 (D,S) M Bell 9-7	M Fenton	81
2	(10)	0424	OUT LIKE MAGIC 40 (V,F) P Evans 9-3	J F Egan	81
3	(9)	31	ANITA AT DAWN 68 (S) B Palling 8-13	P Roberts (5)	84
4	(8)	4310	OPPOSITION LEADER 49 (D,S) B Hills 8-11	M Hills	80
5	(2)	6601	RA RA RASPUTIN 14 B McMahon 8-11	S Sanders	97
6	(4)	2055	TAKE A TURN 18 (V) M Channon 8-10	J Fortune	78
7	(7)	5060	BODFARIDISTINCTION 1 (B,C,S) A Bailey 6-8	G Carter	90
8	(1)	4243	DANZIG FLYER 16 P Harris 8-6	J Quinn	81
9	(11)	3300	LAKELAND PRIDE 11 (B) P Evans 8-3	A McCarthy (7)	81
10	(6)	0046	BLACK JET 36 N Littmoden 7-10	N Adams	59
11	(3)	2506	TURF MOOR 8 J J O'Neill 7-10	D Williams (7)	80

4-1 Next Round, 5-1 Anita At Dawn, Ra Ra Rasputin, Danzig Flyer, 7-1 Opposition Leader, 8-1 Bodfaridistinction, 12-1 Out Like Magic, Take A Turn, 14-1 others

PERTH

THUNDERER

2.20 Coral Island. 2.55 Trap Dancer. 3.30 Kernof. 4.00 Yaakum. 4.30 Charity Crusader. 5.05 Vintage Taittinger.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

2.20 NAYLOR CLAYWARE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £2,276: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1	12	DAWN SUMMIT 14 (G) P Bradley 11-3	R Johnson
2		CORAL ISLAND 23F J Fitzgerald 10-10	P Carberry
3		DISSINGTON TIMES 61F W McKeown 10-10	T Reed
4		DOCKLANDS CARRIAGE 15F N Tinkler 10-10	C Llewellyn
5	5	FATHER EDDIE 28 J J O'Neill 10-10	R McGrath (5)
6		PALDOST 17F M Hammond 10-10	R Garritty
7		SABRE DANCER 33F R Allan 10-10	S Melrose (7)
8		BABY JANE 42F B Mactaggart 10-5	B Storey
9		EPONINE 59F E Elliott 10-5	A Thornton

7-4 Dawn Summit, 5-1 Sabre Dancer, 6-1 Paldost, 8-1 Coral Island, Father Eddie, Baby Jane, 10-1 Docklands Carriage, 16-1 others.

2.55 BONSPIEL ENGINEERING NOVICES CHASE
(£3,323: 3m) (4)

1	22-1	TRAP DANCER 22 (D,F,G) P Monteith 9-11-5	A Dobbin
2	2-51	TWO FOR ONE 2 (D,F,S) Miss L Russell 8-11-5	A Thornton
3	PR-F	TONY'S FEELINGS 29 (D,F) Mrs D Thomson 9-10-12	T Reed
4	31P-	FLOWER OF DUNBLANE 112P (D,F) Mrs D Thomson 6-10-7	D Parker (3)

4-6 Trap Dancer, 15-8 Two For One, 8-1 Flower Of Dunblane, 25-1 Tony's Feelings

3.30 HEATHER PRE-PACKS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,009: 2m 110yd) (4)

1	125-	SECRET SERVICE 15F (BF,D,S) C Thomson 5-11-10	M Foster
2	1/1-	KEEP BATTLING 14F (CD,F,G) J Goldie 7-11-10	R McGrath (5)
3	1P-F	KERNOF 7 (B,BF,D,F) M Hammond 4-11-5	R Garritty
4	305-	SIX CLERKS 31F (BF,D,S) J FitzGerald 4-10-13	P Carberry

7-4 Kernof, 5-2 Keep Battling, 11-4 Six Clerks, 9-2 Secret Service

4.00 NAYLOR CLAYWARE HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,355: 2m) (7)

1	-132	KNOW-NO-NO 10 (BF,CD,F,G,S) M Hammond 8-12-0	R Garritty
2	21U-	YAAKUM 13F (BF,F) S Kettlewell 8-11-11	M A Fitzgerald
3	32P-	HENLEY WOOD 282 (F,G,S) P Hobbs 12-11-7	Mr R Widdicombe (5)
4	2-43	BLAZING DAWN 5 (D,F,S) J Hubbuck 10-11-1	K Johnson
5	1-10	TEEJAY'N'AITCH 53F (D,F,G,S) J Goldie 5-10-6	S Taylor (5)
6	U3-2	CARDENDEN 86 (D,F,G) J Barclay 9-10-0	P Carberry
7	106F	CADDY'S FIRST 10 (D,F) S Mellor 5-10-0	B Powell

3-1 Teejay'n'aitch, 7-2 Know-No-No, 4-1 Henley Wood, 6-1 Yaakum, Cardenden, 8-1 Caddy's First, 10-1 Blazing Dawn

4.30 MURRAYSHALL GOLF COURSE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,136: 3m 110yd) (4)

1	542/	CHARITY CRUSADER 7F (B,BF) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-12	P Niven
2	U/	INSAYNE 879P R Johnson 8-10-12	K Johnson
3	F20-	JACK DORY 151 Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-12	M Foster
4	0-83	MINTULYAR 5 W Kemp 6-10-12	B Powell

2-9 Charity Crusader, 11-2 Jack Dory, 10-1 Mintulyar, 25-1 Insayne

5.05 NAYLOR CLAYWARE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,671: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1	6412	FRONTIER FLIGHT 7 (D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 7-11-10	E Husband (3)
2	532-	CHILL WIND 12F (F,G,S) N Bycroft 8-11-8	M Foster
3	-112	VINTAGE TAITTINGER 21F (BF,C,F) J Goldie 5-11-5	S Taylor (5)
4	50-3	BARNSTORMER 7 (B,F,G) E Silloe 11-10-4	D Parker (3)

6-4 Vintage Taittinger, 2-1 Chill Wind, 5-2 Frontier Flight, 7-1 Barnstormer.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

PERTH: Trainers: P Hobbs, 12 winners from 26 runners, 46.2%; S Mellor, 4 from 10, 40.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 23 from 60, 38.3%; J Goldie, 14 from 49, 28.6%; J Fitzgerald, 6 from 25, 24.0%; M Hammond, 22 from 102, 21.6%; P Monteith, 17 from 82, 20.7%; N Tinkler, 3 from 16, 18.8%. Jockeys: C Llewellyn, 6 winners from 15 rides, 40.0%; P Niven, 26 from 86, 30.2%; A Dobbin, 18 from 83, 21.7%; P Carberry, 8 from 37, 21.6%; R Garritty, 11 from 53, 20.8%; R McGrath, 6 from 34, 17.6%.

CHESTER: Trainers: T Etherington, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; D Loder, 4 from 15, 26.7%; J Dunlop, 5 from 19, 26.3%; R Williams, 3 from 13, 23.1%; M Stoute, 16 from 73, 21.9%; P Harris, 3 from 14, 21.4%; R Hannon, 14 from 72, 19.4%. Jockeys: J Egan, 6 winners from 34 rides, 17.6%; R Cochrane, 6 from 40, 15.0%; G Duffield, 3 from 20, 15.0%; J Fortune, 8 from 63, 12.7%; M Hills, 9 from 71, 12.7%; J Quinn, 7 from 57, 12.3%

Blinkered first time

CHESTER: 2.45 Malibu Man, Swino. 4.55 Lakeland Pride, Out Like Magic. PERTH: 4.30 Charity Crusader. RIPON: 2.30 Moy. 4.40 Shooting Star. 5.10 Amy Leigh. SANDOWN PARK: 2.00 Arm And A Leg.

☐ **John Ffitch-Heyes, the Lewes trainer, has booked Adrian Maguire to ride Ballynagussaun in the Prix Felix de Ruyck, a hurdle race over 17 furlongs at Waregem in Belgium next Tuesday. Ffitch-Heyes also runs Do Be Ware in the same race.**

[illegible]

MONDAY: Hamilton Park (first race, 2.15), Hexham (2.00).
TUESDAY: Folkestone (2.30), Pontefract (2.15).
WEDNESDAY: Brighton (2.20), York (2.10), Newton Abbot (2.30).
THURSDAY: Salisbury (2.20), York (2.10), Fontwell Park (2.30).
FRIDAY: Epsom (2.05), Haydock Park (2.15), Sedgefield (2.25).
SATURDAY: Epsom (C4, 2.05), Haydock Park (BBC, 2.00), Thirsk (2.20), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00), Stratford (2.25).

Flat meetings in bold

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9/1	Life Of Riley	20/1	Poker School
10/1	Patriot Games	20/1	Roufontaine
11/1	Khawafi	22/1	Typhoon Eight
12/1	Grief	33/1	Danegold
12/1	Swinging The Blues	33/1	Kings Assembly
12/1	Your Most Welcome	33/1	Lomberto
14/1	Shalateeno	50/1	Filial
16/1	Edan Heights	50/1	Happy Go Lucky

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Keeping their cool: from the left, Pinsent, Foster, Redgrave and Cracknell will gauge their progress towards the Olympics by their success at the world championships

Crew additions welcomed aboard

Michael Calvin on how the Great Britain coxless four is pulling together in readiness for the world rowing championships

The scene had a haunting beauty, a deceptive tranquility: a lone boat sliced through the warm, turquoise waters of Lac d'Aiguebelette and into the shadows cast by the low clouds that caressed the limestone cliffs.

The eye was drawn to its white hull and the metronomic efficiency of four men, acting and thinking as one. They relished the anonymity of the moment because the instant they returned to the pine-clad shore, they had to contend with the preconceptions of an entire sport.

Only by winning the coxless fours title at the world rowing championships, which begin here tomorrow in the foothills of the Alps, can the team that bears collective responsibility for Steve Redgrave's entry into Olympic *history begin to justify itself.*

The oppressive pressure of public accountability is familiar to the lives of Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, with whom he has won two of his four successive Olympic titles, but to Tim Foster and James Cracknell, *the other members of* Great Britain's so-called Fab Four, it is a diverting, entirely new experience.

Rowing may be an esoteric sport, which demands selflessness and suppresses individualism, yet *Redgrave's Olympic odyssey into* middle age has captured the imagination in a way that has taken the sport out of its natural constituency.

Foster found, to his embarrassment and surprise, that he was *recognised when he went to collect* his contact lenses from the local optician. Cracknell admitted, with a mixture of bashfulness and bewilderment, that he is becoming accustomed to signing autographs for the first time in his life.

"*I am trying to pull them* back to reality," Redgrave said with a smirk. "The pressure on them is *going to be pretty intense over the* next week. They are going to be asking themselves: 'Can I become a *world champion?' Matt and I are* going to be asking ourselves: 'Can we do it again?' There is a big difference in those questions and *the significance of the answers.*"

Yet this, intrinsically, is why he returned to the hairshirt rituals of *dawn alarm calls and uniquely* punishing sessions in a tiny gymnasium, suffused by stale sweat, the pungent aroma of untrammelled ambition. *There are* still days when he hates himself for his obsessional pursuit of perfection, *but there are others, such as* yesterday, when he is intrigued by the private agonies of expectation.

His mind is set and his body is giving off all the right signs. They have been away from Britain, at *altitude, for three weeks.* Now *they* have a reassuring sense of continual fatigue that, perversely, is a *persuasive indication that they* have tapered to peak fitness.

Redgrave and Pinsent were the perfect pair, an unbeatable blend of *strength and smoothness,* aggression and technique. The nature of their work gave the relationship a *powerful intimacy. This year two* new people, two new personalities, have had to be taken into account. "We are not as close as we were before," Redgrave admitted. Pinsent nodded solemnly, and added: "To an extent our relationship has been *defused. We are in the* unknown and, deep down, that's why we are doing this."

It has been a voyage of mutual self-discovery. Characters tend to be brought to the surface by *competitive tension* and Redgrave is used to Pinsent retreating into himself before an important race, *when he refuses to eat and tries to* sleep. In similar circumstances, Cracknell can be found in a corner, mesmerised by the techno-thrash of the latest Prodigy album on his personal stereo.

Foster, who is attempting to *return to Oxford University to take* a Masters degree in psychology, is a different animal. "A space cadet," Pinsent observed. "So laid-back *he's horizontal.*" But there is steel there. Foster's Olympic bronze is a campaign medal, a symbol of his *survival of a turbulent team built* around the Searle brothers.

He treats the casual callousness of celebrity with equanimity and is unmoved by the type of slights crystallised by a magazine headline that purported to tell the tale of "Redgrave, Pinsent and two other blokes". *He smiled at the memory* and said: "The hype's not that bad, really. I don't feel twice as strong, twice as alert, just because of who I am rowing with. But I know this week is going to be our biggest test."

The principals in the team are sensitive to the dangers of instant judgments, preconceived notions. *But above all they are realists.* "We live in a what-have-you-done-for-me-lately world," Pinsent said. "It is inevitable that, as Olympic *champions, the onus will continue* to be on us. This team is evolving, but the only real way we will be accepted as a four is to win in *Sydney.*"

The Millennium Olympics *are, to most, still a mirage,* but to Redgrave, who will be seeking an unprece*dented tenth leading championship* title here, they have a chilling clarity. His mental preparation for the Olympic final in 2000 began the *instant that he decided his life* needed the focal point offered by his sport.

"*This world championship is just* a stepping stone, a form guide to what is going to happen in three years' time," he insisted. "To an amateur athlete, the Olympics are the ultimate. They are the only reason to go on. That was a big *decision for me, but really every*thing has panned out as expected. The only thing I want to do here is prove to myself what I am capable of achieving."

With that, he wandered off, to prepare the boat for another train*ing session. The sun was lower and* the colours from the hillside were richer, but the style, as they eased *out towards the centre of the lake,* was still the same. It was human harmony, poetry in motion. A set of champions in action.

France and Italy take up challenge

GREAT Britain's coxless four of James Cracknell, Steve Redgrave, Tim Foster and Matthew Pinsent, unbeaten since its formation in April and already World Cup champions this year, spearhead a *19-boat — ten men's and nine* women's crews — team in the world championships (Mike Rosewell writes).

However, France and Italy have more than accepted the challenge of confronting, in the words of *FISA, the international governing* body, "the British Dream Team". The French have re-formed their 1996 Olympic silver medal-win*ning crew,* while three from the Italian 1994 and 1995 world champion crew, Rossi, Molea and Leonardo, have reunited, with Marco Penna added.

Britain's coxless pair of Rob Thatcher and Ben Hunt-Davis, joint top in the World Cup placings with Lithuania after tak*ing silver medals in Munich, Paris* and Lucerne, must overcome Croatia, who beat Britain in Munich, and the surprise reappearance of Rolland and Andrieux, of France, Olympic bronze medal-winners in Atlanta.

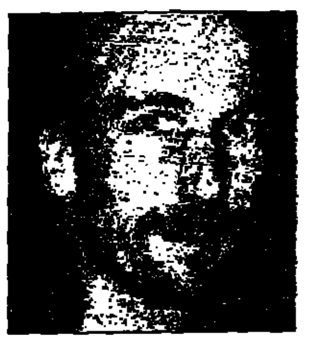
Greg Searle, *the Henley winner* and British record-holder in his first year in top-ranking sculling, faces *Canada's Olympic silver* medal-winner, Derek Porter.

Sean Bowden, the chief coach *for the British men's lightweights,* will be hoping to finish his international employment on a high before taking over as Oxford's coach. His lightweight eight, winners at Henley, took silver at Munich and Lucerne and *bronze in Paris, but Australia look* the golden crew.

Medals are not beyond the coxless pair of Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop. Mike Spracklen, the women's chief coach, has the bonus of the coxless four, which *won gold at Lucerne. The crew* includes Alex Beever, Libby Henshilwood and Sue Walker, *members of the 1994 England* Commonwealth Games eight, which won bronze, and Lisa Eyre, a former athlete.

Three will share taste of summer

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

AND so the long summer comes to an end. Our revels are all ended. *The spiritual Ashes remain as ever* in Australia, as the physical Ashes stay at Lord's. The year is turning — but wait! There is one further *rite of summer to be enacted before* the panama is once again consigned to the hat-rack of history. *The Nicolas Feuillatte Shane* Warne Fizzometer has finally come to rest at the figure of 24.

Before the summer began, I asked the faithful readers of this column to predict the number of Test-match wickets that Warne would take in the course of it. Old Fatface was back, aka the Portly Sadist, the blood of the readership was stirred by the challenge and shaken by the prize on offer of the ambrosial Nicolas Feuillatte champagne.

Three readers hit the bullseye of 24, three more had 25 and yet another three 23. *Congratulations* and greetings and also a magnum of the aforementioned fizz, to the *bullseye-hitters, these being* Geoff Bennett, Rory Brockbank and Norman Philpot. Greetings and *lukewarm congratulations,* and also a normal-sized bottle of champagne, to the near-missers — C Howard, A. C. Cooke, Richard Stenning, V. R. Cadman, Irene Brennan and Jasper Sabey.

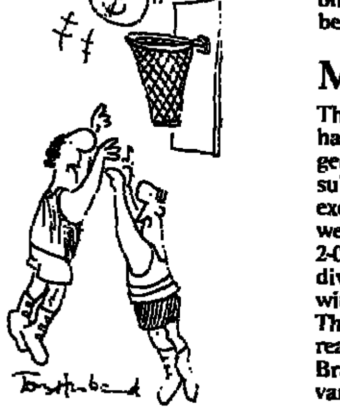
Many thanks and commiserations to everbody else who entered, especially to the gentleman who predicted that the Fizzometer *would come to rest at 77. Farewell* summer!

Oh dear, Diego

When it comes to self-inflicted wounds, then Diego is a self-made Saint Sebastian. Diego was, last Sunday, taking part in Boca Juniors' 4-2 defeat of Argentinos *Juniors: afterwards, he was asked* to submit to a drugs test. Naturally, he was bitter about the indignity, but he was not worried, he said. He had taken a drugs test of his own volition that morning and had tested negative. Alas, his *confidence was misplaced.* Traces of cocaine were found in the urine: it was the third time that he has failed a drugs test. *Mauricio* Macri, the Boca president, said: "Maradona has failed himself more than the Boca team."

Cost of living

When Kevin Garnet was offered $103.5 million to play basketball for the Minnesota Timberwolves, it was a record offer. It now stands as a *new* record: the highest-ever refusal. Garnet would have made $210,000 a game, which is not bad, but *not* good enough. After all, Garnet is 20 and people that age tend to have expenses to meet.



Out of synch

The loneliness of the long-distance runner has nothing on the problem of the alienation of the male *synchronised swimmer. Bill May,* one of two male synchro swimmers in the United States, has been *making waves. He began his com*petitive career two years ago and was regarded as a joke — but now he is getting rather too good for the sport's comfort. He is, in fact, redefining it, by adding the element of power. "He looks like a *hurricane in the pool,*" Linda Witter, the Ohio state coach, said. Donn Squire, an official, said: "I *don't think the synchronised* swimming community likes him being here. He's breaking down a lot of barriers that people don't want broken." *Sports Illustrated* points out that, while he was scoring 89, other top performers *were getting scores in the mid*nineties. Life is always hard for the trail-blazers.

Book of woe

The strange, rather sad and very *bitter row in cricket magazines* continues. David Frith, Anglo-Aussie, former editor of *The Cricketer magazine and founder* as well as former editor of *Wisden Cricket Monthly,* has written a book, *Caught England, Bowled Australia: A Cricket Slave's Complex Story.* Both magazines have declined to review the book, which *represents something of a win*-double — the book is critical of both mags. Frith, who called the challenge that his book represents to *WCM* as "a test of their manhood", has now resigned as the magazine's obituaries editor — *the consolation prize he was given* when removed as editor — and will not now write for them on any other topic. *WCM says it will not* be drawn into a slanging match.

Mistaken identity

The Brazilian team, Botafogo, have been touring Spain and *getting some disappointing* results. It turns out that they have an excuse — they are imposters. They were beaten 6-0 by Salamanca, lost 2-0 against Logroñés, of the second division, and scraped a 2-2 draw with the third division club, Lorca. *Then it was discovered that the* real Botafogo had not actually left Brazil. The phoney Botafogo have vanished into the night.

Daunting Lady appeals

By Our Racing Staff

WELVE two-year-olds attempt to give Britain fifth victory in eight runnings of the attersalls Breeders Stakes at the Curragh xday. *The Ir£150,000 event is restricted to* orses bought at last September's Tattersalls airyhouse Sales.

Richard Hannon, successful last year with fiss Stamper, runs Daunting Lady and Anoer Fantasy. Hannon has also sent out Key To Million, Pelham and Veuve Hoornaert *to be* laced in the last three runnings. Mick hannon, who won with Affair Of State in 1991, represented by Honey Storm and Stately rincess.

Aidan O'Brien fields six of the 30 runners as tries to add to his victory with No Animosity vo years ago. *Hermitage Bay, who is* inkered for the first time, could emerge as the est of the home team.

However, Hannon *could have* the last word ith Daunting Lady, who won her first two arts then finished third to Nadwah in the ueen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot. The ooking of the outstanding Michael Kinane so catches the eye.

O'Brien accounts for three of the eight inners in the group *three Futurity* Stakes — npressionist, Lighting Star and Sideman. The ro British challengers are Fruits Of Love, ained by Mark Johnston, and *Krispy* Knight ohn Hills).

CURRAGH FIELD

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

3.55 TATTERSALLS BREEDERS STAKES (2-Y-O: £73,500: 6f) (30 runners) C4

1 02 BALLA SOLA 29 W P Mullins 8-10 P J Smullen 17
2 3403 BLACK ROCK CITY 7 G Lyons 8-10 N G McCullagh 7
3 3305 BOAT STRAND 14 (B) A P O'Brien 8-10 J A Heffernan 19
4 045 CARNABRAE 29 F Berry 8-10 F M Berry 18
5 6520 CHALLENGER TWO 5 K Prendergast 8-10 S Craine 1
6 3042 DEILGINIS 15 N Meade 8-10 E Ahern 4
7 3302 GOLD RADIANCE 5 A P O'Brien 8-10 — 6
8 0004 GOLDBRIDGE 6 A P O'Brien 8-10 R M Burke 21
9 6400 GOLDMAN 7 A P O'Brien 8-10 Frances M Crowley 2
10 1 GUSCOTT 24 (G) A P O'Brien 8-10 W J Supple 9
11 2 HERMITAGE BAY 63 (B) A P O'Brien 8-10 C Roche 30
12 1221 JACMAR 28 (D,F,G) Miss L Perratt (GB) 8-10 J Weaver 29
13 2012 LAW LIBRARY 26 (C,F) J Bolger 8-10 K J Manning 5
14 3432 MIQUELON 26 (B,BF,G) R Hollinshead (GB) 8-10 P Shanahan 8
15 0004 OISIN 49 Mrs P Duffield (GB) 8-10 D P McDonogh 3
16 4615 PELAGIUS 14 (B,G) J Oxx 8-10 J P Murtagh 25
17 4000 WHACKER-DO 24 R Hollinshead (GB) 8-10 J J Behan 20
18 3205 ANOTHER FANTASY 19 (G) R Hannon (GB) 8-7 Dane O'Neill 27
19 6 BLACK PIDGEON 24 Miss I Oakes 8-7 J M Maguire 13
20 8215 CONECTIS 53 (D,S) D Cosgrove (GB) 8-7 J Reid 15
21 1320 DAUNTING LADY 42 (BF,G,S) R Hannon (GB) 8-7 M J Kinane 22
22 454 DELIRIOUS TANTRUM 29 G Lyons 8-7 S W Kelly 10
23 2145 FAYRANA 12 (BF,G) J Hills (GB) 8-7 M Henry 14
24 33 HONEY STORM 8 M Channon (GB) 8-7 P P Murphy 11
25 050 KATE LANE 38 Mrs P Duffield (GB) 8-7 Y Okabe 23
26 4206 LIFFEY BALLAD 35 G Lyons 8-7 J P Spencer 12
27 1605 MARLIA 5 (D,S) J Bolger 8-7 W J Smith 16
28 66 MOONSTONE 30 A Jarvis (GB) 8-7 — 26
29 2 SLIPPERY SLOPE 14 K Prendergast 8-7 G M Moylan 28
30 3160 STATELY PRINCESS 28 (B,F) M Channon (GB) 8-7 M Rimmer 24

6-1 Hermitage Bay, 7-1 Daunting Lady, 8-1 Law Library, 10-1 Pelagius, 12-1 Balla Sola, Slippery Slope, 14-1 Boat Strand, Deilginis, Gold Radiance, Guscott, Jacmar, 16-1 Another Fantasy, Delirious Tantrum, Fayrana, 20-1 Honey Storm, Stately Princess, 25-1 others

1996: MISS STAMPER 8-7 D Harrison (3-1 fav) R Hannon (GB) 30 ran

Lord Of Men leads Deauville team

ORD OF MEN, trained by hn Gosden and ridden by ankie Dettori, Camporese eter Chapple-Hyam - Olivi Peslier) and Taipan (John nlop - Pat Eddery) can *mplete* a British clean eep in the group three 6,117 Grand Prix de Deau le Lancel over 1½ *miles at* auville *tomorrow.* They e just one local rival, iquette Head's L'Africain u *(Olivier Doleuze), who* s beaten in listed company t time out.

Lord Of Men, who missed t season because of *injury,* is *unbeaten* in his last six starts. He will be attempting to score a swift double at the track, having *made all to land* the *group three* Prix Guillaume d'Ornano over ten furlongs two weeks ago.

Taipan and Camporese will relish *the testing* ground. Taipan has not run since finishing a creditable third to Shantou in the *Princess Of Wales's Stakes* at Newmarket, while Camporese disappointed in the Lancashire Oaks but had earlier *landed the group three Prix Corrida* in Lyon.

Peslier and Chapple-Hyam team up again with Woodland Melody, among a field of six for the group three Prix du *Calvados over seven furlongs.* Woodland Melody retained her unbeaten record with a last-stride win in a listed race at Sandown *last month.*

Criquette Head's Pas De Reponse (Doleuze) runs for the first time since taking fourth *in the 1,000 Guineas* when she contests the group three Prix de Meautry over six furlongs. Joe Naughton's *Hever Golf Rose* and Richard Hannon's Brave Edge are in opposition.

RIPON

THUNDERER

2.30 Cease Fire. 3.00 Karinska. 3.35 Summerhill Special. 4.05 Salamanca. 4.40 Bina Gardens. 5.10 Rock Symphony.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 Arletty.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.30 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,224: 6f) (21 runners)

1 3 THISTLE PARK 28 T Barron 8-12 K Fallon 12
2 03 EMPEROR'S GOLD 12 I Campbell 8-10 A Mackay 21
3 04 CARRICK VIEW 8 P Calver 8-9 Darren Moffatt (3) 9
4 RING DANCER P Makin 8-9 D Holland 13
5 6500 TOP FLOOR 10 N Tinkler 8-9 Kim Tinkler 14
6 0000 JULIES JEWEL 9 M Chapman 8-7 S Carson (7) 1
7 00 STRICTLY RHYTHM 41 Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 8-7 G Parkin (3) 17
8 0556 TOM DOUGAL 14 C Smith 8-7 J Tate 19
9 300 UP THE WALL 26 John Berry 8-7 K Darley 7
10 5 BENROCK 110 J H Wilson 8-5 Dean McKeown 8
11 06 DESIRE'S GOLD 19 M Brittain 8-5 D Meraagh (7) 11
12 04 COOL MYSTERY 21 A Mulholland 8-4 T Lucas 4
13 0 ESSE 8 E Weymes 8-4 J Stack 15
14 05 TOUCH OF COLOUR 10 J Watts 8-4 N Carlisle 3
15 32 CEASE FIRE 9 Mrs J Cecil 8-3 J Carroll 10
16 JUST TESTING J Eyre 8-2 T Williams 20
17 CELESTIAL WELCOME Mrs M Reveley 8-0 L Charnock 2
18 6055 MOY 46 (B) M Brittain 8-0 G Bardwell 6
19 6U00 SCOLDING 46 K Morgan 8-0 J Lowe 18
20 20 GILDERSLEVE 32 (BF) J Watts 7-13 P Fessey (3) 16
21 403 TIME TO TIME 16 T Easterby 7-13 N Kennedy 5

5-2 Cease Fire, 4-1 Thistle Park, 8-1 Gildersleve, 10-1 Ring Dancer 12-1 Carrick View, Cool Mystery 14-1 Time To Time, 16-1 others

3.00 MOORLAND POULTRY FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,615: 1m 2f) (11)

1 2150 DOYELLA 31 (S) D Loder 3-9-11 D Holland 5
2 4451 AGONY AUNT 38 (D,F) Mrs J Cecil 3-9-10 J Carroll 4
3 -106 GANGA 31 (S) W Jarvis 3-9-9 G Hind 3
4 1112 MCGILLYCUDDY REEKS 15 (BF,D,F,G) E Incisa 6-9-4 Kim Tinkler 6
5 0-03 CLASSIC FLYER 12 (F) I Campbell 4-9-4 A Mackay 9
6 5420 KAZIRANGA 43 (BF) L Cumani 3-9-4 K Darley 8
7 4123 KARINSKA 9 (D,F,G,S) M Chapman 7-8-13 S Carson (7) 2
8 5450 ARLETTY 17 H Cecil 3-8-7 K Fallon 7
9 0300 KISSEL 26 (S) S Kettlewell 5-8-6 J Stack 11
10 3501 SING AND DANCE 21 (D,F) E Weymes 4-7-10 P Fessey (3) 10
11 6450 WELCOME HOME 10 P Dalton 3-7-10 L Charnock 1

7-2 Kaziranga, 5-1 McGillycuddy Reeks, 6-1 Sing And Dance, 7-1 Agony Aunt, 8-1 Doyella, Classic Flyer, Karinska, Arletty, 10-1 others.

3.35 CROWTHER HOMES HANDICAP (£3,840: 1m 4f 60yd) (8)

1 6010 AL'S ALIBI 10 (D,G,S) W Muir 4-10-0 K Fallon 3
2 0140 LEDGENDRY LINE 20 (G) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-9 A Culhane 5
3 d1651 SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 15 (CD,F,G,S) D Barker 6-9-5 T Williams 8
4 0261 TOP 28 (D,G) J Fanshawe 3-8-9 K Darley 7
5 4102 GOLD DESIRE 14 (D,F,G,S) M Brittain 7-8-8 G Bardwell 4
6 5136 HASTA LA VISTA 8 (B,CD,F,G,S) M W Easterby 7-8-7 G Parkin (3) 6
7 364 IN THE GENES 42 J Eyre 3-8-7 M Gallagher 2
8 0012 TAJAR 26 (D,F) T Keddy 5-7-10 N Carlisle 1

3-1 Top, 4-1 Summerhill Special, 6-1 Al's Alibi, Gold Desire, 7-1 Ledgendry Line, Hasta La Vista, 8-1 Tajar, 10-1 In The Genes

4.05 RIPON HORN BLOWER CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O. £6,339: 5f) (8)

1 016 ATLANTIC VIKING 35 (D,F) M Johnston 8-12 D Holland 5
2 2103 TWO WILLIAMS 36 (D,S) M W Easterby 8-12 T Lucas 7
3 4402 YORKIES BOY 10 (D,F) B McMahon 8-12 K Darley 6
4 6342 BANNINGHAM BLADE 14 (D,F,S) K Ivory 8-11 Martin Dwyer 4
5 41 BUZZ 68 (S) C Thornton 8-10 Dean McKeown 2
6 130 VICE PRESIDENTIAL 71 (D,S) T Etherington 8-10 A Culhane 3
7 4031 SALAMANCA 21 (D,G,S) J Berry 8-9 P Fessey 1
8 1510 BABY GRAND 14 (D,F,G) T Barron 8-7 Kimberley Hart 8

9-4 Salamanca, 7-2 Atlantic Viking, 4-1 Banningham Blade, 7-1 Yorkies Boy, 8-1 Baby Grand, 10-1 Buzz, 14-1 Vice Presidential, 16-1 Two Williams

4.40 BERNADETTE MCWILLIAMS MEMORIAL MAIDEN STAKES (£3,680: 1m 2f) (10)

1 4/5/ WITCHFINDER 708 Mrs L Stubbs 5-9-6 T Williams 2
2 00 NOTATION 79 D Chapman 3-8-12 A Culhane 6
3 5 PRIMEVAL 12 P Harris 3-8-12 D Holland 5
4 QUIET VENTURE E Dunlop 3-8-12 J Stack 6
5 5 SHOOTING STAR 8 (V) J Gosden 3-8-12 G Hind 10
6 TEME VALLEY R Charlton 3-8-12 K Darley 1
7 644 BINA GARDENS 21 H Cecil 3-8-7 K Fallon 9
8 FUWALA D Shaw 3-8-7 J Fanning 3
9 33 POLENKA 42 J Watts 3-8-7 J Carroll 4
10 D SARAMAH 19 J Gosden 3-8-7 A Garth 7

3-1 Bina Gardens, 7-2 Teme Valley, 9-2 Saramah, 5-1 Polenka, 7-1 Quiet Venture, 8-1 Primeval Shooting Star 33-1 others

5.10 BARBARA CUNNINGHAM & MIDDLEHAM PARK APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,608: 6f) (24)

1 0110 PURPLE FLING 11 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 6-10-0 R Studholme (3) 19
2 616- SYCAMORE LODGE 413 (D,G) M Pelt 6-9-11 A Nicholls (5) 11
3 3065 BOWLERS BOY 7 (D,F,S) J J Quinn 4-9-8 R Smith (5) 24
4 2000 AFAAN 7 (D,F) R Marvin 4-9-6 D Hayden (5) 13
5 3006 LOOK WHO'S CALLING 17 B McMahon 4-9-6 S Righton (3) 14
6 -000 CROESO CYNNES 15 (D,F,G) B Palling 4-9-3 G Hannon (5) 23
7 6304 AMRON 21 (CD,F,G,S) J Berry 10-9-2 Iona Wands 10
8 0000 MALLIA 8 (D,F,G) T Barron 4-9-1 Victoria Appleby (3) 21
9 0006 ROCK SYMPHONY 10 (CD,F,G) W Haggas 7-9-1 Jo Hunnam 4
10 0200 NAISSANT 105 (CD,G,S) M Wane 4-8-12 K Sled 17
11 0451 SHONTAINE 19 (D,F,G) M Johnston 4-8-11 I Grantham (7) 3
12 0544 GIPSY PRINCESS 5 (B,F) M W Easterby 3-8-9 S Finnamore (5) 2
13 5122 CAMIONNEUR 8 (B,CD,F) T Easterby 4-8-6 T Siddall (3) 15
14 -200 PLUM FIRST 13 (D,F,S) J Eyre 7-8-6 Kimberley Hart 5
15 0106 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 7 (CD,F,G,S) R McKellar 5-8-4 J McAuley (5) 12
16 0100 LACHESIS 10 (D,S) D Shaw 4-8-2 R Brisland (5) 18
17 -000 OH WHATAKNIGHT 15 (G) R Whitaker 4-8-0 D Meraagh (3) 8
18 0206 AMY LEIGH 22 (V,D) J H Wilson 4-7-13 Angela Hartley (5) 20
19 2646 STEPHENSONS ROCKET 21 (F,G,S) R Fahey 6-7-11 R Winston 9
20 5045 SOTONIAN 25 P Felgate 4-7-10 J Fowle (5) 22
21 0100 ZAIN DANCER 21 (D,G) D Nicholls 5-7-10 A Polli 8
22 -000 AXEMAN 7 (BF,CD,F) M Wane 5-7-10 Jenny Benson (5) 16
23 5211 OPENING RANGE 12 (F) N Berry 6-7-10 P Bradley (5) 1
24 4U/5 ROSE FLYER 9 M Chapman 7-7-10 S Carson (3) 7

7-1 Camionneur, 8-1 Amron, Gipsy Princess, Stephensons Rocket, Zain Dancer Opening Range, 10-1 Purple Fling, Shontaine, 14-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Charlton, 4 winners from 8 runners, 50.0%, H Cecil, 14 from 41, 34.1%; D Loder, 5 from 15, 33.3%; L Cumani, 11 from 40, 27.5%, J Gosden, 15 from 61, 24.6%, M Johnston, 24 from 124, 19.4%, J R Fanshawe, 4 from 22, 18.2%

JOCKEYS: K Darley, 37 winners from 179 rides, 20.7%, D Holland, 5 from 33, 15.2%, K Fallon, 18 from 130, 13.8%; P J Fessey, 4 from 37, 10.8%, J Tate, 7 from 68, 10.3%.

☐ Richard Hannon and *Dane O'Neill* go for a double *at Baden-Baden* tomorrow. Sir Talbot tackles the group three Furstenberg-Rennen (1m 3f) and Chips runs in the listed Kronimus Rennen (*7f 110yd*).

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Sandown Park

Going: good to soft

2.00 (*5f 6yd*) 1, HIGH CARRY (C Lowther, 7-1); 2, Supreme Angel (M Henry, 10-1); 3, *Fast Tempo* (R Hills, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Dancing Icon, 5 Bound To Please (4th), 6 Italian Rose (5th), 7 Means Business, 8 Going Places, 14 Facile Tigre, 20 Satis, Silent Pride (6th). 11 ran. NR: High Gain. 6l, ¾l, ½l, sh hd, 3l. N Tinkler at Malton. Tote: £8.20; £2.40, £3.00, £5.20. DF: £36.90. Trio: £124.80. CSF: £69.56. Tricast: £635.57.

2.35 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, SHASKA (L Dettori, 4-6 fav); 2, Curzon Street (A Procter, 7-2); 3, Dovedon Star (J Reid, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 40 Snowcap (5th), 66 Spirit Lady (4th). 5 ran. 1l, 1¼l, 11l, 13l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £2.00. DF: £2.60. CSF: £3.41.

3.05 (*1m 14yd*) 1, *SHAWM* (K Fallon, 9-1); 2, Just Nick (J Reid, 7-1); 3, Test The *Water* (Dane O'Neill, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 fav Green Power, 7 Silk St John (4th), 9 *Abajany* (5th), *Telemania* (6th), 10 Al Masroor, 12 Blewbury Hill, Heart Full of Soul, Zoom Up, 16 Attitude, Irula, Kafil, Saffron Rose. 15 ran. 1l, shd, ¾l, ½l, 1¼l. D Loder at Newmarket. Tote: £11.90; £4.10, £2.30, £4.00. DF: £78.10. Trio: £616.80. CSF: £69.77. Tricast: £1,463.87.

3.40 (7f 16yd) 1, LITTLE INDIAN (J Reid, 12-1); 2, Tracking (K Fallon, 5-2); 3, Haami (R Hills, 15-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Sharp Play (4th), 6 Celtic Cavalier (5th). 5 ran. NR: Almutawakel. ½l, 2l, 1¼l, 3½l. S Woods at Newmarket. Tote: £15.50; £3.00, £1.80. DF: £18.90. CSF: £36.06.

4.10 (2m 78yd) 1, SIEGE PERILOUS (L Dettori, 9-2); 2, Courbaril (K Fallon, 11-1); 3, *Private Fixture* (Paul Eddery, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Indigo Dawn, 6 Shadirwan, 9 Hillswick (6th), 10 Nick Of Time (4th), Serious Trust, 12 Zafarelli, 16 Castle Courageous (5th), 20 Name Of Our Father, 33 Not Forgotten, 50 Myosotis, Subtle Touch. 14 ran. NR: Ambuscade, Ginger Rogers. Hd, nk, ½l, ¾l, 3l. S Williams at Newmarket. Tote: £5.50; £2.40, £2.60, £7.30. DF: £22.70. Trio: £310.70. CSF: £50.00. Tricast: £684.49.

4.45 (1m 1f) 1, AZORES (L Dettori, 100-30); 2, Beryllium (Dane O'Neill, 14-1); 3, *Merciless Cop* (M Tebbutt, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Mentles Prince (4th), 7-2 All *In Leather*, 12 *Orontes*, 16 Bright Fountain (6th), Tulsa (5th), 25 Inkwell, Reeds, 66 *Miskin Heights*, Oakbrook Rose. 12 ran. ½l, ½l, hd, sh hd, 4l. P Cole at Whatcombe. Tote: £3.90; £1.70, £3.90, £2.60. DF: £51.50. Trio: £61.20. CSF: £46.61.

5.20 (*5f 6yd*) 1, *SWEET MAGIC* (M Roberts, 11-2); 2, Tinker Osmaston (J *Quinn*, 5-1 fav); 3, *At Large* (N Day, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Runs In The Family, 13-2 *Half Tone* (5th), 15-2 Cornichs Quest (6th), 8 Barranak (4th), Balsman, 14 *Jucea*, Songsheet, 25 *Mutasawwar*, 50 Threeplay. 12 ran. ½l, hd, 1½l, nk, hd. P Howling at Godalming. Tote: £6.50; £1.90, £1.90, £3.70. DF: £10.90. Trio: £174.40. CSF: £31.02. Tricast: £300.25.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £30,852.00 carried forward to Sandown today).

Placepot: £1,234.50. Quadpot: £186.10.

Chester

Going: good to soft

2.10 (1m 2f 75yd) 1, Rasayel (A McCarthy, 12-1); 2, Wentbridge Lad (9-2); 3, Sagebrush Roller (10-1). Portite Sophie 7-2 fav. 9 ran. NR: Shahik. 2½l, 3l. P Evans. Tote: £14.20; £2.70, £1.60, £2.40. DF: £27.10. Trio: £32.20. CSF: £56.19. Tricast: £498.51.

2.45 (7f 2yd) 1, O'Kelly (P Bloomfield, 16-1); 2, *Guaranteed* (9-4 fav); 3, *Lift The Offer* (9-2). 8 ran. 1¼l, 7l. R Guest. Tote: £26.10; £3.80, £1.20, £1.30. DF: £48.20. CSF: £47.76.

3.15 (*7f 2yd*) 1, *Highborn* (D Sweeney, 12-1); 2, Concer Un (9-4 fav); 3, O Factor (*14-1*). 13 ran. Hd, 1¼l. P Felgate. Tote: £16.50; £4.70, £1.50, £5.00. DF: £15.80. *Trio: £145.30. CSF: £36.70. Tricast:* £382.99.

3.50 (6f 18yd) 1, Socket Set (J Fortune, 10-11 fav); 2, Heavenly Abstone (11-2); 3, Salsette (11-2). 6 ran. NR: Cloudberry. 1¼l, 5l. B McMahon. Tote: £1.90; £1.50, £2.80. DF: £4.20. *CSF: £6.10.*

4.20 (1m 7f 195yd) 1, Vicki Romara (D Holland, 4-1); 2, Drab (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Suga Hawk (10-1). Triby 7-2 jt-fav. 7 ran. NR: Rex Mundi. 3l, 10l. M Johnston. Tote: £4.50; £2.50, £2.20. DF: £7.90. CSF: £13.34. Tricast: £62.42. Rex Mundi (7-1) was withdrawn — rule 4 applies, deduct 10p in pound.

4.55 (1m 2f 75yd) 1, Yabint El Sultan (R Ffrench, 13-2); 2, My Valentina (11-2); 3, Brandon Jack (6-1). Kamaney 7-2 fav. 10 ran. 4l, 2l. B McMahon. Tote: £7.60; £1.70, £2.60, £2.00. DF: £43.40. Trio: £54.10. CSF: £39.97. Tricast: £210.65.

Placepot: £77.50. Quadpot: £11.00.

Perth

Going: good to firm (*good in places*)

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Pride Of *Kashmir* (G Tormey, *11-10 fav*); 2, Four From Home (14-1); 3, Cottstown Boy (9-2). 7 ran. 8l, 1¾l. P Hobbs. Tote: £1.50; £1.50, £3.00. DF: £11.30. CSF: £14.98.

2.55 (2m ch) 1, Amlah (B Powell, 1-4 fav); 2, Holders Hill (4-1); 3, Blue Chequer (20-1). 3 ran. 5l, 4l. P Hobbs. Tote: £1.20. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.46.

3.30 (3m ch) 1, Rusty Blade (R Johnson, 12-1); 2, *Siotamenique* (11-4); 3, *Tough* Test (2-1 fav). 5 ran. 3l, 17l. P Monteith. *Tote: £10.20; £2.10, £1.80. DF: £8.60.* CSF: £39.70.

4.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Vintage Red (A Dobbin, 7-2); 2, Flinlock (3-1); 3, Thisonesforalice (9-4 fav). 6 ran. Nk, dist. G Richards. Tote: £4.90; £2.10, £1.90. DF: £4.30. CSF: £11.84. No bid for the winner.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Saxon Mead (B Powell, 9-2); 2, Tony's Feelings (12-1); 3, Paparazzo (3-1). Monkey Wench 5-2 fav. 7 ran. 1l, 1¼l. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.80; £2.90, £4.10. DF: £50.50. CSF: £43.50.

5.05 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Good Hand (R *Johnson, 8-11 fav*); 2, *Chill Wind* (11-4); 3, Penny Gordon (7-2). 4 ran. 1¼l, 1l. S *Kettlewell. Tote: £1.70. DF: £2.60. CSF:* £3.12.

Placepot: £83.20. Quadpot: £63.10.

England look towards World Cup as captaincy is split

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, believes extra burden may have proved too much for one man

Stewart: possible captain

Even as Michael Atherton was banishing his doubts and resolving to continue in the captaincy of England, he was also coming to terms with the fact that one significant part of the job will no longer be his. Very soon now, indeed, England will have not one captain, but two.

The second man will actually lead England in their next engagement, the Champions' Trophy one-day tournament in Sharjah in December. "That," Atherton said philosophically, "is the start of the medium-term planning for the next World Cup."

Was he concerned at the prospect of being sidelined from future one-day cricket? "That is the way the selectors will go," he said. "I am happy with that." It was spoken with the air of a man who has his favourite main course back on the menu and is no longer bothered about the dessert. What it meant, however, was that Atherton will hereafter be only a Test-match captain.

The one-day captain has not yet been identified, though plainly the favourite candidate is Adam Hollioake, who has led Surrey with verve this season. If his youth or inexperience is considered a deterrent, then it will go to Alec Stewart, who was destined to take over the full captaincy if Atherton had stood down.

When the selectors decide — and they have a provisional meeting in Birmingham tomorrow before finalising their thoughts on September 8 — they will be thinking much farther ahead than December. England will stage the World Cup in the early summer of 1999. Much of the marketing momentum of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is being mobilised behind this competition and winning it — a more reasonable ambition than many might think — would generate incalculable interest and revenue for the game.

The man in charge on the field, therefore, is rather more than a negligible sidekick for Atherton. If not an equal partner, he is a man with considerable responsibilities that are likely to increase with each passing year. It is for this very reason that he is necessary. The job has become too big for one man.

Only last week, Australia announced that they would go down the same road. Mark Taylor is indisputably the right man to continue as their Test captain, but a younger one-day leader will soon be identified. This decision, indeed, may lift any pressure on Taylor to bring forward his retirement, as it separates him from an aspect of the game to which he is no longer well suited.

Atherton's decisions, therefore, are to be welcomed on two counts. Like Taylor, he remains demonstrably the correct leader for Test cricket, the part of the game that drives him, but it is in his own interests, and those of the team, that he has effectively stood down from one-day duties.

In the past, Atherton has been keen to argue his credentials for limited-overs cricket on the basis of an impressive batting record. This has not applied in the past 18 months, however, and while his instinct has remained that the job should not be split in two, his meeting with David Graveney on Thursday evening reached mutual agreement that it would happen forthwith.

Graveney, who has shared Atherton's reluctance on this issue, has reconsidered on various levels. Plainly, it is a priority to keep Atherton fresh and enthusiastic, which this division may help achieve, but it is also now essential that England devote more specialised attention to their one-day cricket.

Their last World Cup campaign was a shambles and, while Atherton himself could not entirely be blamed, the consensus that a different style of leadership is preferable in such competitions has grown with time.

"Dividing the jobs up is the best way to go," Graveney said yesterday. "It is a policy that takes some getting used to, but, in this respect, I think it is just like a two-division county championship. In five years from now, everyone will think it was the most natural progression."

CRICKET

Tidy Watkin reaps a rich harvest

By Michael Austin

LEICESTER (third day of four): Glamorgan, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 118 runs ahead of Leicestershire

AFTER fears about the lethal potential of Waqar Younis had proved unfounded, the Leicestershire batsmen were undone by his new-ball partner, Steven Watkin, one of the forgotten players of the first-class game.

Watkin, 32, exploiting an awkward pitch, returned seven for 41, the second-best figures of his 12-year career. He was rewarded for keeping a tidy line and length when bowling downwind from the Bennett End, from which the last nine Leicestershire wickets fell. Watkin, who played three times for England between 1991 and 1993, had not taken five wickets in an innings for two years.

He said later that waiting so long for an impressive return had been preying on his mind and that the pitch was the most helpful he had encountered this year.

It was distinctly Watkin's day as Glamorgan built on a useful first-innings lead of 51 with a strong sense of purpose befitting their status as championship leaders before the present round of matches.

Watkin used the strong wind admirably after initially bowling into it and having Vince Wells caught at the wicket down the leg side. Other batting misadventures followed, although Darren Maddy, driving Waqar, edged an express ball to Adrian Shaw. Iain Sutcliffe was bowled by a ball from Watkin, which cut back sharply and James Whitaker, Leicestershire's most notable performer, was leg-before to a quicker ball from Robert Croft.

Whitaker had made a half-century from 92 balls in a circumspect innings. Waqar suffered from the Leicestershire captain's most aggressive moments as he reached fifty, with a pull shot, swiftly followed by a whiplash hook.

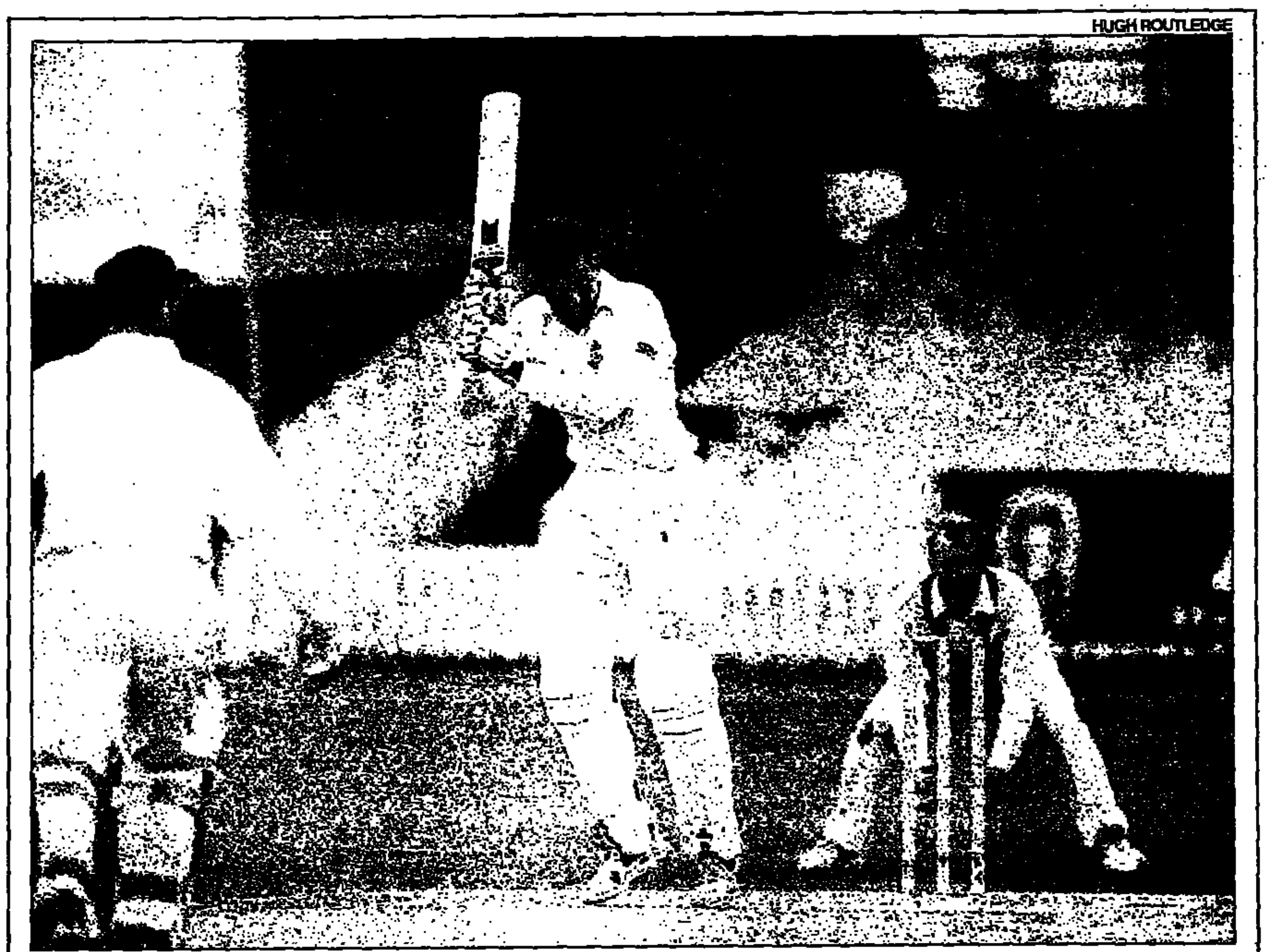
A year ago, Leicestershire were on their way to the championship, but this time, Glamorgan's own credentials were obvious. Their catching was flawless, with Hugh Morris taking two at third slip to supplement three earlier ones by Shaw.

Croft was at his miserly best and Dean Cosker, slow left-arm, continued to make a favourable impression. Waqar, expensive by his standards, still hustled the ball through, but Leicestershire concentrated their minds.

The cosy notion that it was a relief to face Watkin was misguided. Ben Smith, pushing forward, was bowled by the fourth delivery he faced, and Neil Johnson, with bat away from his body, dragged a ball on to his stumps.

Dominic Williamson was bowled by the first ball of Watkin's third spell, his previous ones yielding one for 13 in four overs and, more potently, three for 18 from nine.

Williamson, 21, Durham-born, will reflect on his championship debut with pride. His medium pace brought three for 19 in Glamorgan's first innings before he had Stephen James well caught at second slip. Wells induced Adrian Dale to play on and Michael Powell was leg-before, second ball, to inject further piquancy to the final day.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Halsall, of Eastbourne, man of the match in the club knockout final, flicks a ball from Houseman to square leg

Eastbourne give lift to Sussex spirits

By Derek Hodgson

LORD'S (Harrogate won toss): Eastbourne beat Harrogate by nine wickets

HARROGATE, prospective Yorkshire League champions, were sent packing up the M1 with their tails between their legs after a one-sided final of the Abbot Ale Cup at Lord's yesterday. Eastbourne beat them by nine wickets with 14.1 overs to spare in a 45-over match.

Ian Houseman, of Harrogate, is not the first captain to make the error of batting first in a Lord's final in late summer. The pitch looked dry enough but there must have been enough moisture for the ball to seam a little and these conditions, and a crosswind, were used well by Eastbourne's opening bowlers, Roger Myall and Paul Hacker.

Hacker's little wobblers mystified Harrogate's batsmen to such an extent that when Myall dived to take a return catch, the first three wickets had gone for 37 in 17 overs, despite the closeness of the Mound Stand boundary.

Eastbourne supported their bowlers with electric fielding, making only one real error in the whole innings, when David Pipe, on 15, was dropped off a skyer. When Harrogate did try to accelerate they were puzzled by the flight of Geoff Stevens. They also suffered a run-out and a dazzling stumping. But for 44 from Simon Kippax, they would have struggled for three figures. Even their recovery from 84 for six to 158 all out, was helped by the long spells Alex Halliday had rightly given his opening bowlers.

Richard Halsall and Peter Stevens, by contrast, found both bowling and pitch favourable when Eastbourne batted. Each hit a six and thumped fours merrily while adding 135 off 27 overs before Stevens (one of four of that name in the team) skied to long on. Halsall, who finished 82 not out, was named man of the match.

All that was needed to complete a great day for south coast cricket was a silver band to play "Sussex by the Sea". If conditions are similar for the NatWest Trophy final, there is unlikely to be a late finish.

SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

HARROGATE

J Proud lbw b Hacker	0
P Hepworth b Hacker	3
D Wyrill c and b Myall	13
D Bates b G Stevens	23
V Craven b G Stevens	15
†J Pipe st P Stevens b G Stevens	18
S Kippax b Halsall	41
J Henderson run out	8
A Burton b Halsall	11
M Smart c and b Myall	4
*I Houseman not out	4
Extras (b 1, lb 12, w 5)	18
Total (44.2 overs)	158

FALL OF WICKETS: 0-1, 2-10, 3-37, 4-49, 5-81, 6-84, 7-94, 8-143, 9-154

BOWLING: Myall 8.2-0-22-2; Hacker 9-3-12-2; Hamblin 9-0-40-0; G Stevens 9-1-25-3; Halliday 5-0-22-0; Halsall 4-0-24-2.

EASTBOURNE

R Halsall not out	82
†P Stevens c Wyrill b Kippax	63
D Stevens not out	4
Extras (lb 2, w 8)	10
Total (1 wkt, 30.5 overs)	159

*A Halliday, M Lyons, M Stevens, D Meacher, G Stevens, J Hamblin, R Myall and P Hacker did not bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-135

BOWLING: Burton 4-1-27-0; Houseman 9-0-53-0; Kippax 8.5-2-27-1; Smart 3-0-31-0; Hepworth 6-0-20-0

Man of the match: R Halsall.

Umpires: K Hopley and A B Bloodworth

Astle puts stamp on intriguing encounter

By John Thicknesse

BRISTOL (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 166 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

A BRILLIANT all-round display by Nathan Astle threatened to take a hard-fought game quickly out of Gloucestershire's reach at Bristol yesterday. But having suffered while the New Zealander took five for 46 with his medium-paced swingers, then watched helplessly as with effortless straight driving he hit 39 off 41 balls, Gloucestershire dismissed him in the nick of time and lived to fight another day.

Nottinghamshire, 81 ahead at 49 for two before Astle drove Jon Lewis low to extra cover, lost two more wickets in the final 95 minutes — both to David Lawrence in his first match for three months — to set the scene for a final day that could go either way.

On a pitch requiring patient application by both the bowlers and the batsmen, Shaun Young and Mark Alleyne did a critical job for Gloucestershire by staying together for the first 90 minutes of the morning, stretching their stand to 95.

But they had to work for every run. Young batting 120 minutes for his 56 and Alleyne 183 minutes for 71. Astle, however, from the moment he straight drove his third ball for four, seemed unstoppable. The six and six of the seven fours his inning contained came off Lewis and, remarkably, all were caressed to the area of the sightscreen. It was a lovely piece of batting.

Astle was helped to his best analysis in England by a stunning catch by Bowen, at forward square leg, who hurled himself to his right to hold a well-hit drive by Young. Trainor took one to match, or even better it, early in the Nottinghamshire innings, diving left at extra cover to catch a skimming drive by Robinson.

Boon cuts deep into Durham's bonus

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 180 runs behind Durham

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE have had plenty of time to study David Boon. For nearly five hours yesterday the Durham captain responded to every ball as though his life rested upon the outcome. It will become apparent today whether the home side has absorbed a lesson in concentration.

On a pitch of capricious bounce, Boon eschewed all risk. His two sixes against the off spin of Brown were controlled strokes over mid-wicket and most of his 13 fours were cut along the ground through cover point. Durham duly accumulated full batting points for the first time since May last year.

He received able support from Hutton during a third-wicket stand of 103. The partnership promised more, but Hutton, with 13 fours in his resolute 95, fell leg-before to a ball from Davies that skidded through low. Morris was caught behind sweeping and Weston misjudged a short ball, the first of five wickets for Mohammad Akram.

Boon completed his hundred from 224 balls and had reached 117, the highest of his three centuries this season, when he followed Akram down the leg side in the first over after tea. The flamboyant Cox took the total past 350.

The season cannot end soon enough for Northamptonshire. They appeared dispirited and members are unhappy at an alarmingly sharp decline. One has voted for the groundsman's dog in a player-of-the-year poll. They began the second innings 232 behind but could not have imagined that Betts, their bane on Thursday, would prove so accommodating. His four overs cost 40 runs. Brown, in contrast, began with eight successive maidens.

Hegg responds in Lancashire's hour of need

By Barney Spender

OLD TRAFFORD (third day of four): Yorkshire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 318 runs ahead of Lancashire

THERE was good news and bad news for Lancashire yesterday. The good news was that they completed a convincing innings victory over Yorkshire in the Roses match; the bad news was that it was in the second XI game in Bradford and not at Old Trafford where they continued to play second-best to their rivals.

Strangely, however, after batting like a demob-happy prep school team, they may yet win this match, thanks to Warren Hegg, their wicketkeeper, whose 50 not out took them past the follow-on mark of 270 and ensured that Yorkshire will have to set a target this morning to keep their title hopes alive.

At least Yorkshire will start on top after McGrath thrashed 76 from 51 balls, with four sixes and six fours, to quickly extend their lead.

Hegg, who seems to relish a crisis, has steered Lancashire to victory this season over Worcestershire, with an unbeaten 54, and over Warwickshire against a rampant Allan Donald.

Yesterday, after the morning session had been washed out, he came in at 183 for six and eked out his fourth half-century of the season, sharing a gritty, unbroken, ninth-wicket partnership of 55 with Richard Green.

Lloyd became the first Lancashire batsman to reach his 1,000 runs for the season when he had made 44, but was bowled immediately afterwards. Jason Gallian was fined £250 and severely reprimanded for knocking out his stumps after he was dismissed on Thursday.

Thorpe inspires Surrey in one-sided affair

By Ivo Tennant

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 243 runs behind Surrey

SURREY'S batsmen, stroke players almost to a man, were too much for Sussex yesterday. Graham Thorpe made his first championship century of the season, Adam Hollioake struck 87 off 57 balls and Mark Butcher's innings of 61 included any number of pleasing shots. Ian Salisbury then took four wickets without conceding a run.

This is an alarmingly one-sided contest. Indeed, so confident of victory were Surrey that they chose to make Sussex bat for 13 overs in the evening rather than building an even more substantial lead. They were 263 runs ahead when the declaration was made. Salisbury, returning to the ground on which he made his name, had Peirce and Taylor leg-before, followed by having Edwards and Kirtley, the two nightwatchmen, caught close to the wicket.

Sussex, 102 for seven overnight, were bowled out for 137, Lewis taking five wickets for the first time this season. All that can be said is that he made considerably more of such movement and bounce as there was than did any of the Sussex bowlers. With the exception of Ratcliffe, who was beaten on the back foot by Robinson, every Surrey batsman gave his wicket away.

Stewart and Butcher both cut short balls to cover point. Brown, the Hollioakes and Lewis were all out looking to add further runs as quickly as possible. This scarcely mattered, for Surrey looked by the time they declared, to have quite enough. Thorpe's century came off 135 balls, including 11 fours and a six.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship

11.0, final day of four, 96 overs minimum

DERBY: Derbyshire v Somerset
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Nottinghamshire
PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v Kent
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Yorkshire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Glamorgan
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Durham
KIDDERMINSTER: Worcestershire v Middlesex

10.30, third day of four, 104 overs minimum

HOVE: Sussex v Surrey

NATWEST UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL MATCH (11.0, third day of four): Canterbury: England v Zimbabwe

WOMEN'S ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL MATCH (10.45, 50 overs): Milton Keynes: England v South Africa

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Burton Albion; Atherstone v Salisbury; Bath v Cambridge City; Bromsgrove v Gresley; Dorchester v Worcester City; Forest Green v King's Lynn; Gloucester v Rothwell; Halesowen v St Leonard's; Hastings v Tamworth; Nuneaton v Crawley; Sittingbourne v Merthyr. Midland division: Bedworth v Grantham; Moor Green v Bilston; Shepshed D v Corby; Wisbech Town v Solihull Boro. Southern division: Cinderford v Chelmsford; Newport IoW v Margate; Witney v Weston-super-Mare

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton v Accrington Stanley; Bamber Bridge v Altrincham; Barrow v Bishop Auckland; Blyth Spartans v Gainsborough; Boston v Chorley; Frickley v Lancaster; Hyde v Marine; Radcliffe v Colwyn Bay; Runcorn v Emley; Spennymoor v Leigh RMI; Winsford v Guiseley. First division: Albion v Whitby; Workington v Ashton United

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Bishop's Stortford; Boreham Wood v Carshalton; Chesham v Purfleet; Dagenham and Redbridge v Harrow; Dulwich v Gravesend and Northfleet; Hendon v Basingstoke; Kingstonian v Bromley; Oxford City v St Albans; Sutton United v Heybridge; Walton and Hersham v Hitchin; Yeading v Enfield. First division: Aldershot Town v Bognor Regis; Molesey v Hampton; Staines v Billericay; Uxbridge v Chertsey. Second division: Braintree v Canvey Island; Tooting and Mitcham v Bedford T

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Porthmadog; Barry v Rhyl (2.0); Caernarfon v Rhayader Town; Caersws v Bangor City; Carmarthen Town v Flint Town; Connah's Quay v Newtown; Haverfordwest v Welshpool; Total Net Solutions v Inter Cable-Tel

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Omagh; Cliftonville v Crusaders; Glentoran v Linfield

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v Drogheda (7.30); Sligo v Bohemians (7.30).

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Cray v Lordswood; Faversham v Greenwich; Ramsgate v Beckenham; Swanley Furness v Crockenhill; VCD v Herne Bay

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Keynsham

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Amersham v St Margaretsbury; Brimsdown v Woodford; Brook House v Cockfosters; Haringey Boro v Harefield; Waltham Abbey v Islington. Premier division north: Harpenden v Bedford; Brache Sparta v Biggleswade; Buckingham Athletic v Letchworth; Toddington v Hoddesdon

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Portsmouth (11.0); Fulham v Arsenal (11.0); Leyton Orient v Charlton (11.0); Millwall v Gillingham (11.0); Queens Park Rangers v Crystal Palace (11.0); Southend v Ipswich (11.0); Tottenham v Watford (11.0); West Ham v Norwich (11.0). Second division: Bournemouth v Bristol Rovers (11.0); Brighton v Brentford (11.0); Bristol City v Tottenham (11.0); Colchester v Wycombe (11.0); Luton v Oxford Utd (11.0); Reading v Swindon (11.0); Southampton v Barnet (11.0)

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch v Wellesbourne; Bilston Community College v Bolehall Swifts; Cheslyn Hay v GPT (Coventry); Continental Star v Handrahan Timbers; David Lloyd AFC v Massey Ferguson; Highgate v Coleshill; Knowle v Meir KA; Southam v Dudley Sports; Studley BKL v King's Heath; Worcester v Coventry Sphinx.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle v Peterhead; Clachnacuddin v Fraserburgh; Deveronvale v Brora; Elgin v Fort William; Keith v Lossiemouth; Rothes v Nairn County; Wick Academy v Cove

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont v Ash; Chessington and Hook v Farnham; Cranleigh v Cobham; Hartley Wintney v Walton Casuals; Netherne v Feltham; Sandhurst v Merstham; Westfield v Raynes Park Vale

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Holker Old Boys v Prescot Cables; Ramsbottom v Vauxhall GM

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood v Stansted; Concord Rangers v Ilford; Eton Manor v Sawbridgeworth; Hullbridge Sports v Burnham Ramblers; Saffron Walden v East Ham

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill T v Bustleholme; Darlaston v Gornal A; Ettingshall v Wolverhampton C; Kington Town v Cradley Town; Ludlow T v Stafford T; Tividale v Malvern T; Walsall Wood v Bloxwich S

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe Port and T v Bury Town; Harwich and Parkeston v Sudbury; Sudbury v Clacton

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Newbury v East Cowes; Totton v Christchurch; Aerostructures v BAT; Cowes Sports v Thatcham Town; Romsey v Whitchurch; Ryde Sports v Downton.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Holbeach v Ford Sports; M Blackstone v Kempston; Yaxley v Bourne

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Halesowen H v Knypersley V

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: North Ferriby v Hallam

FA CUP: Preliminary round part two: Banbury v Rushall O; Blakenall v Great Yarmouth; Stewarts and Lloyds v Soham; Hinckley Utd v Wednesfield; Boston v Stapenhill; Brackley Town v Cogenhoe Utd; Sutton Coldfield Town v Stowmarket; Rocester v W Mid Police; Stafford v Ely; Sandwell v Spalding; Raunds T v Shifnal T; Warton v Lowestoft; Redditch v Wellingborough; RC Warwick v St Neots; Willenhall v Gorleston; Pelsall V v Barwell; Newmarket v Stamford; Histon v Oldbury; VS Rugby v Chasetown; Diss v Bloxwich Town; Stourport S v Woodbridge T; Northampton Sp v Warboys; Wroxham v Paget R; Long Buckby v Boldmere St M; Folkestone Inv v Marlow; Welwyn Garden v East Thurrock; Flackwell Heath v Barkingside; Grays v Langford; Ford v Great Wakering; Pagham v Camberley; Horsham v Northwood; Croydon v Mile Oak; Tunbridge Wells v Chichester; Corinthian-Casuals v Aveley; Leatherhead v Wealdstone; Langney Sports v Southall; Whitstable Town v Dorking; Egham v Burnham; Redhill v Ware; Godalming and Guildford v Tonbridge; Worthing v Eastbourne Town; Epsom and Ewell v Canterbury; Ringmer v Wick; Lewes v Tilbury; Wingate and Finchley v Corinthian; Leighton Town v Ashford; Hailsham v Met Police; Erith v Harlow; Wivenhoe v Chipstead; Croydon v Beaconsfield SYCOB. Preliminary round part three: Hillingdon Borough v Stotfold; Tiptree v Clapton; Hassocks v Barton Rovers; Milton Keynes v Viking Sports; Kingsbury v Portfield; Witham v Deal; Halstead v Berkhamsted Town; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Potton; Oakwood v Potters Bar; Romford v Hertford; Hythe v Chalfont St Peter; Three Bridges v Whitehawk; Selsey v Wembley; Wootton Blue Cross v H Hempstead; London Colney v Fisher; Royston v Shoreham; Maldon v Ruislip M; Slade Green v Erith and Belvedere; Hornchurch v Arundel; Arlesey Town v March; Barking v Basildon; Thamesmead v Saltdean; Hanwell v Tring; Horsham YMCA v Dartford; Abingdon Town v Devizes; Bridgwater v Brislington; Paulton R v Fareham; Cirencester T v Tuffley; Cove v Brockenhurst; Bashley v Torrington; Chippenham v Eastleigh; Westfields v Westbury; Frome v Wokingham; Lymington v Endsleigh; Tiverton v Weymouth; St Blazey v Trowbridge; Wimborne v Falmouth T; Odd Down v Backwell; Fleet T v Thame Utd; Elmore v Hungerford; Welton v Calne; Clevedon v Bemerton Heath Harl; Bournemouth v Gosport; Bridport v Buckingham T; Newport AFC v Maidenhead; Didcot v Taunton; Glastonbury v Chard; Andover v Portsmouth RN; Barnstaple v Carterton; Waterlooville v Reading T; Melksham v Yate; Minehead v Mangotsfield Utd

RUGBY UNION

International match
Wales v Romania (at Wrexham FC, 3.0)

Inter-provincial championships
Leinster v Connacht (at Donnybrook, 2.30)
Ulster v Munster (at Ravenhill, 2.30)

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division
Bristol v Wasps (3.0)
Harlequins v Bath (2.15)
Leicester v Gloucester (3.0)
London Irish v Sale (3.0)

Second division
Bedford v Rotherham (3.0)
Coventry v Moseley (3.0)
London Scottish v Fylde (3.0)
Orrell v Blackheath (3.0)
Wakefield v Exeter (3.0)
West Hartlepool v Waterloo (3.0)

Jewson National League
First division
Leeds v Harrogate (3.0)
Liverpool St Helens v Worcester (3.0)
Lydney v Rugby (3.0)
Newbury v Reading (3.0)
Otley v Nottingham (3.0)
Rosslyn Park v Morley (3.0)
Wharfedale v London Welsh (3.0)

Second division north
Aspatria v Birmingham/Solihull (3.0)
Hinckley v Winnington Park (3.0)
Lichfield v Stourbridge (3.0)
Nuneaton v Sedgley Park (3.0)
Sandal v Preston Grasshoppers (3.0)
Sheffield v Manchester (3.0)
Walsall v Kendal (3.0)

Second division south
Barking v Camberley (3.0)
Cheltenham v Weston-super-Mare (3.0)
Esher v Redruth (3.0)
Henley v North Walsham (3.0)
Metropolitan Police v Bridgwater (3.0)
Plymouth v Clifton (3.0)
Tabard v Havant (3.0)

SOUTH WEST: First division: Berry Hill v Barnstaple; Bracknell v Torquay; High Wycombe v Stroud; Launceston v St Ives; Matson v Maidenhead; Penzance and Newlyn v Gloucester Old Boys.

THWAITES NORTH: First division: Bridlington v New Brighton; Doncaster v Wigton; Macclesfield v Broughton Park; Middlesbrough v Hull Ionians; West Park Bramhope v Tynedale; Widnes v Stockton.

SRU League Trophy
Group A
Currie v Musselburgh (3.0)
Gala v Glasgow Hawks (3.0)
Hawick v Melrose (3.0)
Heriot's FP v Kirkcaldy (3.0)
Preston Lodge v Edinburgh Acads (3.0)

Group B
Dundee HSFP v Biggar (3.0)
Peebles v Boroughmuir (3.0)
Stirling County v Kelso (3.0)
Watsonians v Jed-Forest (3.0)
West of Scotland v Kilmarnock (3.0)

CLUB MATCH: Newport XV v Cross Keys (2.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam v Beverley; Dudley Hill v Wigan St Patrick's; Egremont v Saddleworth; Lock Lane v Leigh Miners; Mayfield v Walney Central; Oldham St Anne's v Heworth; West Hull v Woolston. First division: Barrow Island v Skirlaugh; East Leeds v Moldgreen; Leigh East v Millom; Milford v Eastmoor; Redhill v Thornhill; Shaw Cross v Blackbrook; Wigan St Jude's v Oulton. Second division: Crosfields v York Acorn; Dewsbury Moor v Dodworth; Hull Dockers v Eccles; London Students v New Earswick; Normanton v Ovenden; Siddal v Featherstone Amateur.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: All-England championships (in Worthing); Atlantic Rim world championship (in Llandrindod Wells).

GOLF: Motor Seniors Classic (at Goodwood).

HOCKEY: International match: England v Australia (at Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, 2.30). Under-21 international tournament: Ireland v Belgium (10.0); England v Germany (noon) (at Milton Keynes)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Eastbourne v Peterborough (7.30); King's Lynn v Poole (7.30). Premier League: Berwick v Long Eaton (6.30); Stoke v Newcastle (7.30). Cup: Final, second leg: Edinburgh v Oxford (7.0). Amateur League: King's Lynn and Ipswich v Belle Vue (9.15); Swindon and Reading v St Austell (7.30)

Tomorrow

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship

10.30, final day of four, 96 overs minimum

HOVE: Sussex v Surrey

Axa Life League

1.0, 40 overs

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v Kent

2.0, 40 overs

DERBY: Derbyshire v Somerset
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Warwickshire
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Nottinghamshire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Yorkshire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Glamorgan
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Durham
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Middlesex

NATWEST UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL MATCH (11.0, final day of four): Canterbury: England v Zimbabwe.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Marlow: Buckinghamshire v Hertfordshire. Instow: Devon v Cornwall. Dean Park, Bournemouth: Dorset v Wiltshire. Kington: Herefordshire v Oxfordshire. Lincoln Lindum: Lincolnshire v Norfolk. Jesmond: Northumberland v Bedfordshire. Shifnal: Shropshire v Cheshire. Longton: Staffordshire v Cumberland. Ransomes, Ipswich: Suffolk v Cambridgeshire. Colwyn Bay: Wales v Berkshire.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER VILLAGE CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Lord's: Caldy v Shipton-under-Wychwood (11.0).

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Havant v Baldock.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cork v Dundalk (2.0); Shelbourne v Kilkenny (3.15); UCD v Shamrock (3.15).

FA CUP: Preliminary round part two: Chatham v Banstead. Preliminary round: Hebburn v Garforth; Heanor v Salford; Littlehampton v Southend Manor; Sheppey v Windsor and Eton.

FA YOUTH CUP: Preliminary round: Gorleston v Wivenhoe.

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division
Newcastle v Northampton (3.0)
Saracens v Richmond (3.0)

Welsh League
First division
Newbridge v Merthyr (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
Castleford v Sheffield (3.30)
London v Bradford (6.35)
Oldham v Warrington (3.0)
Salford v Halifax (3.0)
St Helens v Paris (3.0)

Divisional Premiership
Cumbria pool
Barrow v Lancashire Lynx (3.0)
Workington v Whitehaven (3.0)

East Yorkshire pool
Hull KR v Hull (3.0)
York v Wakefield (3.0)

Lancashire pool
Leigh v Keighley (3.0)
Swinton v Widnes (3.0)

West Yorkshire pool
Bramley v Batley (3.0)
Hunslet v Huddersfield (3.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Atlantic Rim world championship (in Llandrindod Wells).

GOLF: Motor Seniors Classic (at Goodwood).

HOCKEY: Under-21 international tournament: Ireland v Germany (1.0), England v Belgium (3.0) (at Milton Keynes).

ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Manchester v Sheffield (5.0); Paisley v Telford (6.30)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Glasgow v Oxford (6.30); Newport v Newcastle (2.30). Amateur League: Buxton v Ipswich and King's Lynn (3.0); Mildenhall v St Austell (3.30).

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CRICKET

Smith hits century in bold reply by Kent

By Jack Bailey

PORTSMOUTH (third day of four): Kent, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 224 runs behind Hampshire

THERE was some stirring batting yesterday on a good pitch at Portsmouth, where Kent made an impeccable reply to the Hampshire first innings of 406. Ed Smith and David Fulton combined in their county's first century opening partnership of the season and went way beyond that. But with only one day remaining, the game is drifting towards a draw.

Bat dominated ball to such an extent yesterday that only the unlikely combination of fine weather and a last minute, as yet unsignalled, understanding between the captains, seems likely to produce a result.

As it is, Smith's first championship century and an opening partnership of 170 for Kent — between two products of the Sevenoaks Vine club — while a pleasant enough event for Kent supporters, must leave them wondering about prospects for the county championship.

The pitch has dried out. It is a beauty to bat on and Smith and Fulton were duly grateful to be taking strike after 2½ days of running backwards and forwards from the pavilion while Hampshire occupied the crease.

Only after the Hampshire tail had wagged ferociously, and Shaun Udal had come within an ace of his second century of the season, did they at last get their turn.

By the time Smith gave Renshaw a return catch, the young man who had scored prolifically for Cambridge University earlier in the season but had made only one half-century for Kent, had passed his 100 from 157 balls, having struck 16 fours, and left his partner some distance in his wake.

Hampshire had completed their innings in fine style. Not only did the last five batsmen more than double the score, but they did it in double quick time. When they were all out, 50 minutes after lunch, they had taken the score from 210 for five overnight to 406 and Kent were bitterly regretting asking them to bat first.

Kent had been comparatively sanguine when Phillips first caused the doughty Aymes to play on and then brought Stephenson's notable innings to an end with the second new ball. Stephenson's 76 included 13 fours, scored with equal facility off front foot and back, between periods of watchful defence.

The Hampshire innings appeared to be drawing swiftly to a close when Savident fell to a tumbling catch in the gully by Ealham — there can be no more wholehearted cricketer playing in England today. At 279 for eight, Hampshire seemed all but done for — but we had reckoned without Udal and Renshaw.

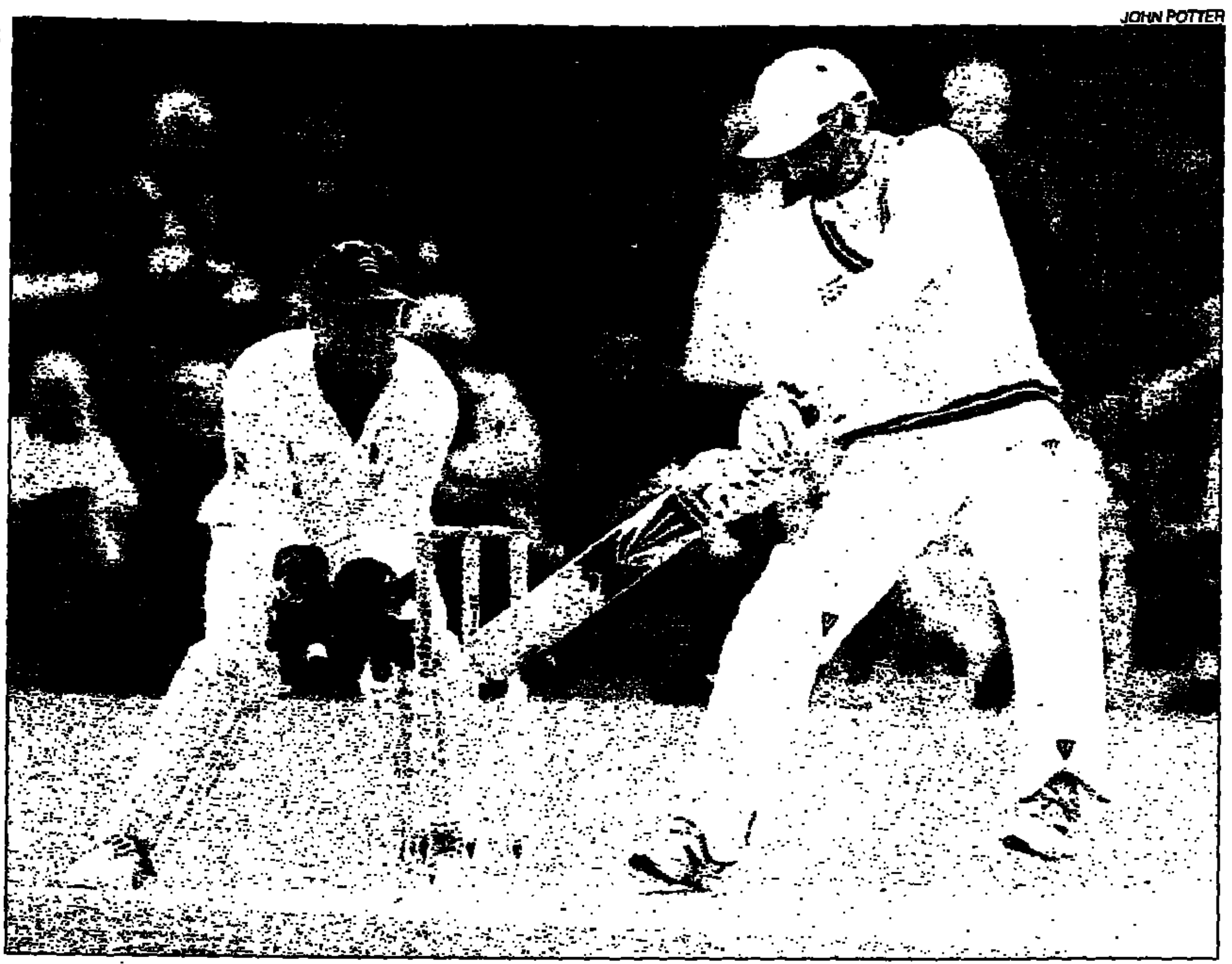
Udal had already scored a century against Warwickshire this season and not many overs had gone before it became plain that there was another on the cards. A hard chance to second slip went to earth when he had made 19, but he rode his luck while Renshaw gave robust support at the other end.

Just before lunch, Udal reached his half-century from 72 balls with his eighth four. His impudent strokeplay thereafter caused Headley to lose his rag as well as his line and length. At the same time, Strang came in for crisp punishment from both batsmen as Renshaw unfolded more batting talent than could reasonably be expected from a No 10.

Udal had raced from 50 to 91 in just 24 balls when that strong workhorse, Phillips, had him caught at mid-on after the ninth Hampshire wicket had yielded 113 runs from 20 overs. The day's play produced runs at nearly five an over and the question remains: where does the match go from here?

With a forecast of rain moving in from the west, there may be no need for an answer.

JOHN POTTER



Brown, the wicketkeeper, looks on as Leatherdale attempts to score another boundary in his innings yesterday

Bowlers suffer on benign surface

By Pat Gibson

KIDDERMINSTER (third day of four): Middlesex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 207 runs ahead of Worcestershire

THIS has turned into a completely different game from the one that they were playing on the first two days. The Kidderminster pitch, which had been so helpful to the seam bowlers, reverted to its normal, benign self yesterday, leaving Tom Moody, the Worcestershire captain, with no option but to settle for a run chase in the attempt to preserve his side's championship ambitions.

It was as much as he could have hoped for in the morning. Worcestershire, with six wickets left, were still 162 runs behind and everything that had gone before suggested that they would struggle to manufacture any chance of victory after the loss of almost an entire day to rain.

In the event, they had relatively few problems. The green tinge had gone from the pitch under the effects of the wind and the sun, the Middlesex bowlers had lost their nip and David Leatherdale and Steve Rhodes were able to put on 112 in 31 overs before Moody declared one run behind.

The only wicket to fall was that of Haynes, who had helped Leatherdale to put on 69 for the fifth wicket when he was bowled by a ball of full length from Hewitt, easily the most demanding of the Middlesex bowlers. The rest were treated almost contemptuously by Leatherdale and Rhodes, whose highlight was lifting Tufnell over long-on for six.

Leatherdale had struck 14 fours and was within 12 runs of his third century of the season when the declaration came, while Rhodes had hit five fours as well as his six in his unbeaten 59.

Then it was the turn of the Worcestershire bowlers to suffer. Pooley provided them with only the second wicket to fall all day when he drove Sheriyar's second ball straight to extra cover, but Kallis and Ramprakash filled their boots in an unbroken second wicket partnership of 205. Kallis completed his hundred off 140 balls with no fewer than 20 fours and Ramprakash reached a more sedate 72 off 163 balls, with ten fours.

Essex overwhelmed in Lord's rehearsal

By Simon Wilde

CHELMSFORD (third day of four): Warwickshire (21pts) beat Essex (4) by eight wickets

THIS was a pitiful performance by Essex, who began the day with plenty to play for and finished it roundly beaten by the team they will face, with some trepidation, in the NatWest Trophy final a week today. The game finished with a day to spare; had 102.5 overs not been lost, it would have been over in two.

Having conceded a first-innings deficit of 59, Essex then produced some astonishingly slapdash batting to be all out for 101, their lowest total since their humiliation in last year's September final, when they were routed for 57 by Lancashire. That Lord's pitch was capricious, this Chelmsford one merely testing; in short, they had only themselves to blame.

Warwickshire's win was, however, spoilt by an injury to Moles, who has partially ruptured an Achilles tendon and will play no further part in the season.

Starting their second innings after lunch, Essex were immediately in trouble, losing Hodgson, driving ambitiously, in Donald's second over and Robinson and Stuart Law — slashing at his second ball — in Brown's second. They were then one for three. Hussain and Grayson dug in, before Welch cut one back and had the Essex acting captain leg-before. Hussain adjusted his pad before departing, in time to listen to Atherton's broadcast.

Grayson drilled a full toss to cover and Danny Law made an ungainly heave and was leg-before to Giles, at which point Essex were 42 for six and dead and buried. Rollins and Flanagan restored some respectability with a stand of 29 — Flanagan's composure in both innings was the only encouraging aspect to the game for Essex.

By mopping up the tail, Donald finished with spectacular match figures of 30.5-13-57-8 to add to his contribution with the bat. His stand of 46 with Penney, who batted skilfully for 210 minutes for an unbeaten 77, restored Warwickshire's advantage after Such had claimed three wickets in four balls.

Derbyshire rush to beat the rain

By John Stern

DERBY (third day of four): Derbyshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, lead Somerset by 169 runs

DERBYSHIRE have had a desperate season, so the sight of Dominic Cork striding out to the wicket after Somerset's declaration 72 runs behind was a clear indication of their desire to press on to try to record only their second championship victory.

Adrian Rollins's injury left Derbyshire with a hole at the top of the order and Cork was keen to oblige. In making an unbeaten 55, his first fifty of the season, he batted with common sense as well as the belligerence one would expect. After the loss of Michael May, reaching for too wide a delivery for the second time in the match, Tim Tweats kept Cork company as the home side set about constructing a total for the visitors to chase today.

After a 90-minute delay because of heavy rain, Cork made an early impression with the ball by having both openers caught at the wicket. Simon Ecclestone, Somerset's acting captain, made a hectic 24 before being stumped as he came down the wicket to off-spinner Simon Lacey.

At 85 for four, Somerset were in trouble and Derbyshire had the opportunity to take control of a match blighted by the weather. But Marcus Trescothick hooked Devon Malcolm for a six and a four to long leg during an aggressive half-century, his third in the championship this season, off 55 balls.

Michael Burns drove Mathew Cassar for three to reach his fifty off 56 balls and raise the century stand. The following ball he was bowled by Lacey and Ecclestone declared soon after tea with Trescothick unbeaten on 83, his highest score of the season, and Somerset on 251 for five.

Marillier alters balance of power

By Rupert Cox

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Zimbabwe Under-19, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 148 runs ahead of England Under-19

THE loss of 16 wickets yesterday may routinely, nowadays, cast aspersions in the direction of the groundsman at the St Lawrence Ground. Brian Fitch's wicket, however, has proved an excellent cricket wicket, offering pace and bounce, with the majority of dismissals owing more to naive batting and disciplined bowling than the state of the surface.

Poorly though the England Under-19 batsmen performed — they were dismissed inside 50 overs — they still managed to eclipse their opponents first-innings total by 30 runs. In striking two blows before the Zimbabweans had cleared their arrears, England had seemed to have taken a firm grip on the final NatWest international, before Douglas Marillier hit the first half-century of the match to shift the balance of the game. In an untroubled display, Marillier illustrated the excellence of the wicket, striking eight fours and three sixes while adding an invaluable 102 with Mluleki Nkala.

In the morning, the visitors added 28 to their overnight score while Paul Franks, Nottinghamshire's talented and industrious all-rounder, clean bowled David Mutendera and Bertus Erasmus to finish with five for 66. Erasmus, the Zimbabwean captain, was last man out for a spirited 49, having hit two of the nine boundaries in the innings.

Led by the Essex pairing of Stephen Peters and Graham Napier, England approached the lunch interval cruising at five an over and a huge first-innings lead beckoned. But with complacency undoing Peters the innings altered course.

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: West Coast 18.12 (120) bt Brisbane 11.15 (81).

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago Cubs 4 Florida 3 (10inns); Atlanta 4 Houston 2; St Louis 11 Montreal 5

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 3 Chicago White Sox 2 (11inns); Baltimore 1 Kansas City 5.

INTER-LEAGUE GAMES: San Diego 9 Anaheim 2; Colorado 9 Seattle 5; Los Angeles 7 Oakland 1; San Francisco 5 Texas 11.

BOWLS

WORTHING: All-England Bowling Association championships: **Singles:** Third round: D Holder (Wargrave, Berks) bt D Baxter (Alexandra Park, Dorset) 21-14; R Brittan (Erdington Court) bt W Jackson (Lincoln St Giles) 21-15; P Pull (Bournemouth) bt D Loy (Summertown) 21-2; P Broderick (Wellingborough) bt I Spreadborough (Saltash) 21-8; S Gait (Bristol) bt N Cammack (Burton House, Boston) 21-17; A Thomson (Blackheath and Greenwich) bt S Woodcock (Whittlesey Manor) 21-19; R Moses (Hollingbury Park) bt A Jones (King George V, Guisborough) 21-11; M Coles (Garston, Herts) bt J Stamper (Lonmede, Chelmsford) 21-15. Quarter-finals: Brittan bt Holder 21-15; Broderick bt Pull 21-8; Thomson bt Gait 21-9; Coles bt Moses 21-19. Semi-finals: Brittan bt Broderick 21-12; Coles bt Thomson 21-20. Final: Brittan bt Coles 21-17

LLANDRINDOD WELLS: Atlantic Rim championship: **Singles:** Third round: Argentina (M Cabrera) bt Spain (C Toleman) 25-22; South Africa (J Peacock) bt Canada (On-Kow Ali) 25-16; England (M Price) bt Scotland (J Lincoresi) 25-19; Guernsey (A Simon) bt Holland (D van Deur) 25-12; Ireland (M Johnston) bt Namibia (J Joubert) 25-8; Israel (C Prager) bt Jersey (K Horman) 25-22; Wales (B Morgan) bt United States (M de Lisle) 25-21. Fourth round: South Africa bt Argentina 25-12; Canada bt Scotland 25-8; England bt Holland 25-9; Namibia bt Guernsey 25-18; Ireland bt Jersey 25-14; Wales bt Israel 25-11; United States bt Spain 25-18. Fours: Third round: Argentina bt Spain 17-15; South Africa bt Canada 29-10; Scotland (K Houston, S Kelly, J Maxwell, S Gourlay) bt England (K Hawes, J Baker, G Fitzgerald, S Page) 22-20; Guernsey (B Hurlord, J Simon, A Mamen, P Harding) bt Holland 34-8; Ireland (J Minnis, D Kane, P Smith, P Nolan) bt Namibia 34-10; Jersey (A Birch, J Jones, J Lowery, S Syvret) bt Israel 16-11; Wales (K Pearce, S Mansbridge, N Shipperlee, R Jones) bt United States 20-12. Fourth round: South Africa bt Argentina 23-8; Scotland bt Canada 20-12; England bt Holland 25-6; Guernsey bt Namibia 17-13; Ireland bt Jersey 18-16; Israel bt Wales 19-14; United States bt Spain 20-15.

BOXING

CIVITAVECCHIA, Italy: World Boxing Union middleweight championship: S Branco (It, holder) bt G F Freda (Arg) rsc 6th

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of three: Southampton: Essex 224-8 dec (P R Shaw 54; R J Maru 5-33) and second innings forfeited; Hampshire first innings forfeited and 227-0 (P R Whitaker 111 not out, G R Treagus 94 not out). Hampshire win by ten wickets. Chesterfield: Warwickshire 367-7 dec (M D Edmond 128 not out) and second innings forfeited; Derbyshire 0-0 dec and 370-5 (G A Khan 98, V P Clarke 86 not out, P Aldred 75 not out, S D Stubbings 60). Derbyshire win by five wickets. Sunderland: Durham 148 (K P Sheeraz 5-43) and 207-6 (M A Roseberry 73 not out); Gloucestershire 238. Match drawn. Final day of four: Tunbridge Wells: Kent 278 (C D Walsh 85, N J Llong 81, M J Walker 61; R S C Martin-Jenkins 4-61, N C Phillips 4-52) and 80-1 dec; Sussex 56-3 dec and 236-9 (J D Chaplin 72, Martin-Jenkins 53; W J House 4-61, Llong 4-32). Match drawn. Uxbridge (RAF Vine Lane): Northamptonshire 386 (T M B Bailey 86, K J Innes 84, T C Walton 54; S J Cook 5-67) and second innings forfeited; Middlesex 94-2 dec and 295-9 (P N Weekes 132; Walton 4-25). Middlesex win by one wicket. Bradford Park Avenue: Yorkshire 174 and 224; Lancashire 458. Lancashire win by an innings and 60 runs.

CYCLING

PERTH, Australia: World track championship: Men: Pursuit: Semi-finals: A Markov (Russ) 4min 24.598sec bt A Collinelli (It) 4:27.511; P Ermenault (Fr) 4:26.221 bt S Steinweg (Ger) 4:29.317. Final: Ermenault 4:23.058 bt Markov 4:27.350. Team sprint: Third-place play-off: Australia 45.268 bt Greece 46.496. Final: France 44.926 bt Germany 46.257. Women. Sprint: Quarter-finals: F Ballanger (Fr) bt I Yanovych (Ukr) 2-0 (12.180-11.737); M Ferris (Aus) bt G [illegible] 2-0 (11.949-12.005); M Enukhina (Russ) 2-0 [illegible]; F Humbert-Faure (Fr) bt K Freitag (Ger) 2-0 (12.169-12.603); O Grishina (Russ) bt T Dubnicoff (Can) 2-0 (12.250-12.355).

EQUESTRIANISM

MANNHEIM, Germany: European three-day event championship: 1, Germany 15.75pts; 2, Holland 21.61; 3, Great Britain 34.86; 4, France 46.89; 5, Ireland 48.83; 6, Switzerland 50.05. Individual placings overnight: 1, L Beerbaum (Ger) 0; 2, H Simon (Austria) 4.35; 3, E Hendrix (Holl) 5.56; 4, M Beerbaum (Ger) 6.72; 5, W Melliger (Switz) 8.20; 6, L Nieberg (Ger) 9.67. British placings: 8, R Smith 10.87; 12, G Billington 13.79; 14, J Whitaker 14.31; 20, M Whitaker 18.68

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Qualifying round, second leg: Legia Daewoo Warsaw 4 Glenavon 0 (Legia win 5-1 on agg). National Bucharest 7 Cwmbran Town 0 (Bucharest win 13-2 on agg). Shelbourne 1 Kilmarnock 1 (Kilmarnock win 3-2 on agg). Hapoel Beer Sheva (Isr) 2 Jiars Vilno (Lith) 1 (Hapoel win 2-1 on agg). Apoel Nicosia (Cyp) 6 HB Torshavn (Faeroe Is) 0 (Apoel win 7-1 on agg); Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 3 HJK Helsinki (Fin) 0 (Red Star win 3-1 on agg). US Luxembourg (Lux) 0 NK Primorje (Slovenia) 1 (Primorje win 3-0 on agg); Budapest Vasutas (Hun) 2 FC Balzers (Liech) 0 (Vasutas win 5-1 on agg).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich 0 Arsenal 5; West Ham 1 Swindon 0

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Nottingham Forest 3 Leeds 2. First division: Notts County 2 West Bromwich 2. Second division: Barnsley 3 Wrexham 1

FA YOUTH CUP: Preliminary round: Atherton LR 5 Leigh RMI 0; Westfields 2 Histon 5; Felixstowe Port and 0 Ipswich 2. Marlow 4 Hampton 2; Herne Bay 5 Ashford 1; Chichester 5 Hythe 2; Merstham 2 Basingstoke 1

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERCUP: Vasco 2 Santos 1.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Guingamp 1 Marseilles 1

GLIDING

BIDFORD-ON-AVON: National junior championships: Third day (145km alt quad; 1 completion of 34): 1, D Allison (LS8) 47.3kph, 275pts; 2, J Pennant (LS1) 112.3km, 226; 3 equal, H Jones (Ventus 2) 92.1km and P Masson (Discus) 91.6km, 146; 5, L Rebbeck (LS4) 86.9, 133; 6, A Gibson (ASW20L) 72.4, 99. Overall (three days): 1, Allison 1,800pts; 2, Masson 1,431; 3, H Jones 1,378; 4, L Rebbeck 1,329; 5, J Hood (Discus) 1,317; 6, G Smith (Pik20) 1,291

GOLF

GOODWOOD: Motor Seniors Classic: Leading first-round scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 66: E Polland. 67: D Simon (US). 69: R Vines (Aus). 70: T Britz (SA), N Ratcliffe (Aus), D Creamer, B Carter, I Richardson. 71: S Lancaster (US), L Monroe (US), T Gale (Aus), R Botts (US), R Stam (US), J Bjornsson (Swe). 72: P Butler, H Flatman, B Verwey (SA), M Bembridge, D Talbot, K Higgins, J Morgan, M McCabe, G [illegible], C Defoy, W Armstrong (US), K Fulton (Can), G Burroughs, J Fourie (SA), N Wood, B Waites, M Gregson, B Brask (US)

MILWAUKEE: Greater Milwaukee Open: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 66: L Clements, W Glasson, A Magee, F Funk, J D Blake, B Claar, M Brisky. 67: D Forsman, M Calcavecchia, L Roberts, C Rose, A Meznick (Swe), J Sindelar, C Strange, N Lancaster, F Allem (SA), F Lickliter. 68: J Thorpe, T Purtzer, D Toms, R Pride, K Clearwater, E Aubrey, W Levi, G Sauers, M Standly, L Mattiace, W Andrade, A Lyle (GB), Lee Rinker, R Estes, C Smith, T Pernice Jr

BROEKPOLDER, Rotterdam: Steelcover Dutch Challenge: Leading first-round scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 66: R Winchester, G Owen. 68: M Reale (It), R Jacquelin (Fr), M Lanner (Swe), J Bickerton, A Canete (Arg), D Lynn, H Bjornstad (Nor)

HOCKEY

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England 0 Australia 10 (at Basingstoke).

UNDER-21 TOURNAMENT: Germany 6 Belgium 1; England 4 Ireland 2 (at Milton Keynes).

RUGBY LEAGUE

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Bradford 38 Featherstone 6; Halifax 10 Salford 22; Oldham 18 Warrington 22

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Parramatta 12 St George 12

SHOOTING

BISLEY: Police championships: Fullbore rifle (short range): Special, I Macdonald (Preston, Retired) 150pts; 1, J Tumelty (S Wales) 148; Special, B Cambray (Devon, Retired) 147. Fullbore (long range): 1, D Sutcliffe (Warwickshire) 96.10; 2, P Bishop (Warwickshire) 95.7; 3, R Curwen 94.11. Aggregate: Special, Macdonald 243.28; 1, Curwen 238.23; 2, R Hughes (Met) 237.27; 3, Tumelty 236.23. Free rifle: Special, B Spicer (Leicester) 1,110; 1, D Hodson (Lancashire) 1,104; 2, A Roberts (Merseyside) 1,089; 3, K Sinclair (Met) 1,089. Standard pistol: Special, P Fioppani (RAF) 563; 1, R Duckworth (West Yorks) 559; 2, N Wells (West Yorks) 543; 3, R Carroll (Strathclyde) 530. Free pistol: 1, M Barnes (West Midlands) 529; 2, Duckworth 524; 3, M Nichol (West Midlands) 505. Rapid fire: Special, R Fillery (BPC) 571; 2, H Hunter (Marylebone) 568; 3, Duckworth 565. Smallbore Rifle (long range): 1, P Hatton (Lancashire) 594; 2, S Yeomans (Met) 588; 3, J Rogers (RUC) 588. Olympic final: Fred Jennings Trophy: Hatton 697.9 (PAA record)

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich 59 Eastbourne 31

PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield 53 Glasgow 37.

SQUASH

HONG KONG: Hong Kong Open: Quarter-finals: Jansher Khan (Pak) bt M Heath (Scot) 15-10, 15-12, 15-11; B Martin (Aus) bt P Marshall (Eng) 17-14, 11-15, 15-9, 15-7; J Power (Can) bt D Harris (Eng) 15-10, 15-8, 15-14; P Nicol (Scot) bt B Davis (Aus) 15-8, 15-7, 15-4

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian women's Open: Semi-finals: S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt S Wright (Eng) 9-1, 9-2, 9-1; M Martin (Aus) bt C Jackman (Eng) 6-9, 9-4, 9-7, 5-9, 9-6

STUDENT SPORT

PALERMO: World Student Games: Finals: Athletics: Women: Heptathlon: M Steigauf (Ger) 6,546pts. Swimming: Men: 100m freestyle: M Hernandez (Cuba) 50.50sec. 100m breaststroke: S Lopokhov (Russ) 1min 02.74sec. 200m butterfly: D Stanley (Um) 1min 59.67sec. 400m medley: T Kinugasa (Japan) 4min 24.18sec. 800m freestyle: I Snitko (Ukr) 8min 05.13sec. 4 x 200m relay: United States 7min 26.78sec. Women: 200m freestyle: M Moravcova (Slovakia) 1min 59.96sec (games record). 200m breaststroke: M Tanaka (Japan) 2min 30.24sec. 400m freestyle: E Yamanoi (Japan) 4min 16.30sec. 4 x 100m freestyle relay: United States 3min 47.80sec. Fencing: Women: Epee: Hungary bt Russia 45-28

TENNIS

FLUSHING MEADOWS: United States Open: Men: Singles: Second round: A Corretja (Sp) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; D Vacek (Cz) bt M Sell (US) 4-6, 7-6, 6-1, 6-2; A Radulescu (Ger) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; P Sampras (US) bt P Baur (Ger) 7-5, 6-4, 6-3; J van Lottum (Holl) bt J van Herck (Bel) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; F Mantilla (Sp) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 7-5, 6-4, 6-2; P Korda (Cz) bt M Martelli (It) 6-3, 7-6, 7-6; G Rusedski (GB) bt M Ondruska (SA) 7-6, 6-4, 6-1; S Draper (Aus) bt J Novak (Cz) 7-5, 7-6, 3-6, 6-3; J Knippschild (Ger) bt D Pescariu (Rom) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1; G Kuerten (Br) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; R Krajicek (Holl) bt M Filippini (Uru) 7-6, 6-2, 7-5; M Damm (Cz) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt T Martin (US) 7-5, 6-4, 6-0; J Tarango (US) bt G Raoux (Fr) 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 6-2, 6-4; P Rafter (Aus) bt M Norman (Swe) 6-2, 6-1, 6-2; M Woodforde (Aus) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-3, 6-4, 7-6; H Gumy (Arg) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 7-5, 6-4, 6-2; W Ferreira (SA) bt T Henman (GB) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. Doubles: First round: B MacPhie and J Salzenstein (US) bt B Haygarth (SA) and G van Emburgh (US) 7-6, 6-3; M Bhupathi and L Paes (India) bt W Arthurs (Aus) and A Kitinov (Macedonia) 6-4, 6-4; D Johnson and F Montana (US) bt J Eagle and A Florent (Aus) 6-4, 6-4. Women: Singles: Second round: A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt M Tu (US) 6-2, 5-7, 6-2; M J Fernandez (US) bt R Grande (It) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; O Barabanschikova (Bela) bt B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) 6-3, 6-3; E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt L Richterova (Cz) 7-5, 6-1; F Labat (Arg) bt F Lubiani (It) 6-1, 6-1; M Serna (Sp) bt N Dechy (Fr) 6-4, 6-4; P Schnyder (Switz) bt Y Yoshida (Japan) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; P Suarez (Arg) bt J Trail (US) 4-6, 7-5, 6-4; R McQuillan (Aus) bt R Hiraki (Japan) 6-0, 6-2; M Hingis (Switz) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 6-1, 6-2; J Novotna (Cz) bt Y Basuki (Indo) 6-4, 6-2; K Po (US) bt B Schett (Austria) 6-3, 4-6, 7-5; C Martinez (Sp) bt S Smith (GB) 6-1, 6-0; M Lucic (Cro) bt B Rippner (US) 6-0, 6-1; L Davenport (US) bt W Probst (Ger) 6-2, 6-3; A Fusai (Fr) bt N Miyagi (Japan) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. Third round: I Spirlea (Rom) bt L Osterloh (US) 6-2, 7-5. Doubles: First round: G Fernandez (US) and N Zvereva (Bela) bt J Pullin and L Woodroffe (GB) 6-4, 6-4; L McShea (Aus) and A Wainwright (GB) bt A Grossman (US) and K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-3, 6-2; A Coetzer (SA) and M Pierce (Fr) bt H Nagyova (Slovakia) and P Schnyder (Switz) 6-0, 6-1; N Arendt (US) and M Bollegraf (Holl) bt C Morariu (US) and M Muric (Cro) 6-4, 6-4; L Montalvo (Arg) and L Pleming (GB) bt J and L Lee (US) 6-3, 7-5; M Babel (Ger) and L Golarsa (It) bt T Krizan (Slovenia) and E Martincova (Cz) 7-5, 6-4.

EDINBURGH: LTA Reebok Tour: Men: Semi-finals: T Mitchell (Aus) bt R Matheson (Scot) 6-1, 6-3; N Gould (Avon) bt J Barnott (Scot) 7-6, 6-1. Women: Quarter-finals: M Marino (Russ) bt N Payne (Scot) 6-2, 7-5; C Udeta (Nigeria) bt H Lockhart (Scot) 6-2, 7-5; E Jelfs (Oxfordshire) bt M Brown (Scot) 7-5, 6-2; L Perkins (Durham and Cleveland) bt A Napier (Surrey) 6-3, 6-1. Semi-finals: Udeta bt Perkins 7-6, 4-6, 6-4; Jelfs bt Marino 7-5, 6-2

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Somerset

DERBY (third day of four): Derbyshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 169 runs ahead of Somerset

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 323 (M E Cassar 78, P A J DeFreitas 58, S J Lacey 50; A R Caddick 4 for 96)

Second Innings

D G Cork not out	55
M R May c Turner b Shine	1
T A Tweats c Mushtaq b Rose	26
A J Harris not out	7
Extras (b 1, lb 3, w 4)	8
Total (2 wkts)	97

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-81

BOWLING: Caddick 6-3-19-0; Shine 6-0-46-1; Rose 5-1-23-1; Mushtaq Ahmed 5-3-3-0

SOMERSET: First Innings

†R J Turner c Krikken b Cork	23
P C L Holloway c Krikken b Cork	8
*S C Ecclestone st Krikken b Lacey	24
M N Lathwell lbw b Harris	11
M E Trescothick not out	83
M Burns b Lacey	56
G D Rose not out	28
Extras (b 2, lb 12, nb 10)	24
Total (5 wkts dec, 58.4 overs)	251

S Herzberg, A R Caddick, Mushtaq Ahmed and K J Shine did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-41, 3-60, 4-85, 5-167

BOWLING: Malcolm 10-1-31-0; DeFreitas 11-3-44-0; Harris 10-1-27-1; Cork 9-1-37-2; Lacey 14.4-2-76-2; Cassar 4-0-22-0

Bonus points: Derbyshire 5, Somerset 6

Umpires: R Julian and B Leadbeater

Essex v Warwickshire

CHELMSFORD (third day of four): Warwickshire (21pts) beat Essex (4) by eight wickets

ESSEX: First Innings 178 (S G Law 54; A A Donald 5 for 50)

Second Innings

D D J Robinson lbw b Brown	0
T P Hodgson c Piper b Donald	1
*N Hussain lbw b Welch	7
S G Law c Piper b Brown	0
A P Grayson c Donald b Smith	20
J N Flanagan b Giles	16
D R Law lbw b Giles	7
†P J Rollins c Brown b Giles	29
A P Cowan c Hemp b Donald	15
M C Ilott not out	1
P M Such c Welch b Donald	1
Extras (lb 2, nb 2)	4
Total	101

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-13, 5-33, 6-42, 7-69, 8-94, 9-99

BOWLING: Donald 7.4-4-7-3; Brown 10-2-36-2; Welch 5-1-8-1; Smith 6-1-30-1; Giles 10-6-24-3

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

*N V Knight lbw b Such	48
A J Moles c Hussain b Ilott	0
D L Hemp b Cowan	18
D P Ostler c Rollins b Such	2
T L Penney not out	77
N M K Smith b Cowan	17
†K J Piper lbw b Such	21
D R Brown b Such	0
G Welch c Ilott b Such	0
A F Giles lbw b Such	14
A A Donald c Cowan b Grayson	19
Extras (b 7, lb 6, nb 8)	21
Total (69.5 overs)	237

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-31, 3-56, 4-93, 5-132, 6-169, 7-169, 8-169, 9-191

BOWLING: Cowan 20-1-76-2; Ilott 14-4-42-1; Such 30-4-94-6; Grayson 5.5-1-12-1

Second Innings

*N V Knight not out	20
A J Moles retired hurt	20
D L Hemp c Grayson b Such	0
D P Ostler b Such	0
T L Penney not out	0
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (2 wkts)	43

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-40

BOWLING: Cowan 4-1-21-0; Ilott 3-0-19-0; Such 1-1-0-2; Grayson 0.4-0-2-0

Umpires: J D Bond and J F Steele

Gloucestershire v Nottinghamshire

BRISTOL (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 166 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 294 (W M Noon 60, R T Robinson 56, M P Dowman 52; A M Smith 6 for 83)

Second Innings

M P Dowman lbw b Lewis	1
R T Robinson c Trainor b Lewis	6
N J Astle c Trainor b Lewis	39
U Afzaal c Alleyne b Lawrence	14
A A Metcalfe c Russell b Lawrence	14
*P Johnson not out	44
C M Tolley not out	12
Extras (w 2, nb 2)	4
Total (5 wkts)	134

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-18, 3-49, 4-67, 5-92

BOWLING: Smith 8-1-18-0; Lewis 10-4-42-3; Lawrence 6-0-28-2; Young 5-2-13-0; Alleyne 4-1-14-0; Trainor 3-1-12-0; Ball 5-3-7-0

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

N J Trainor lbw b Bowen	0
M G N Windows b Bowen	2
T H C Hancock c Noon b Evans	32
R I Dawson c Noon b Oram	25
S Young c Bowen b Astle	56
*M W Alleyne b Astle	71
†R C Russell lbw b Astle	9
M C J Ball c Astle b Evans	32
A M Smith b Astle	3
J Lewis c Oram b Astle	12
D V Lawrence not out	0
Extras (b 2, lb 10, w 2, nb 6)	20
Total (89.3 overs)	262

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-21, 3-70, 4-74, 5-169, 6-202, 7-228, 8-234, 9-262

BOWLING: Bowen 22-7-45-2; Oram 17-4-55-1; Tolley 12-4-45-0; Evans 18-3-59-2; Astle 20.3-4-46-5

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 6, Nottinghamshire 6

Umpires: T E Jesty and D R Shepherd

Hampshire v Kent

PORTSMOUTH (third day of four): Kent, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 224 runs behind Hampshire

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

J S Laney b Ealham	24
M L Hayden c Headley b Ealham	26
G W White c Marsh b Headley	44
R A Smith lbw b Headley	42
M Keech c Ward b Headley	2
*J P Stephenson c Marsh b Phillips	76
†A N Aymes b Phillips	28
S D Udal c Wells b Phillips	91
L Savident c Ealham b Headley	4
S J Renshaw not out	35
S M Milburn c Strang b Phillips	7
Extras (b 10, lb 9, nb 8)	27
Total	406

Score at 120 overs: 323-6

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-81, 3-121, 4-127, 5-190, 6-256, 7-267, 8-279, 9-392

BOWLING: Headley 36-9-105-4; Phillips 24.5-7-64-4; Ealham 26-11-50-2; Fleming 24-4-86-0; Strang 22-4-62-0

KENT: First Innings

D P Fulton not out	64
E T Smith c and b Renshaw	102
T R Ward not out	5
Extras (lb 7, nb 4)	11
Total (1 wkt, 55 overs)	182

A P Wells, G R Cowdrey, M A Ealham, M V Fleming, *†S A Marsh, P A Strang, D W Headley and B J Phillips to bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-170

BOWLING: Milburn 10-0-44-0; Renshaw 13-2-39-1; Udal 22-8-40-0; Stephenson 6-0-36-0; Savident 4-0-26-0

Bonus points: Hampshire 3, Kent 3

Umpires: A Clarkson and D J Constant

Lancashire v Yorkshire

OLD TRAFFORD (third day of four): Yorkshire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 318 runs ahead of Lancashire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 419 for 9 dec (M P Vaughan 106, D Byas 61, C E W Silverwood 58, C White 52)

Second Innings

A McGrath c Hegg b Watkinson	76
M P Vaughan b Watkinson	47
*D Byas c Gallian b Yates	4
D S Lehmann b Yates	13
C White not out	23
B Parker st Hegg b Yates	5
Extras (lb 6, nb 2)	8
Total (5 wkts)	176

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-109, 3-136, 4-148, 5-176

BOWLING: Martin 5-0-38-0; Austin 6-0-39-0; Yates 5.1-0-45-3; Watkinson 4-0-48-2

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

J E R Gallian b Hutchison	10
N T Wood c Blakey b Hutchison	20
J P Crawley c Blakey b Stemp	28
N H Fairbrother c Blakey b White	44
G D Lloyd b Hutchison	44
*M Watkinson c Byas b Hamilton	18
I D Austin c McGrath b Silverwood	15
†W K Hegg not out	50
G Yates b Stemp	18
R J Green not out	16
Extras (b 1, lb 9, nb 4)	14
Total (8 wkts dec, 78.3 overs)	277

P J Martin did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-42, 3-84, 4-153, 5-157, 6-183, 7-189, 8-222

BOWLING: Silverwood 14.3-1-47-1; Hutchison 21-5-67-3; Hamilton 11-2-35-1; Stemp 13-2-44-2; Vaughan 7-0-42-0; White 12-3-32-1

Bonus points: Lancashire 6, Yorkshire 7

Umpires: N T Plews and A G T Whitehead

Leicestershire v Glamorgan

LEICESTER (third day of four): Glamorgan, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 118 runs ahead of Leicestershire

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James c Nixon b Millns	14
H Morris b Millns	8
A Dale lbw b Wells	69
M J Powell c Nixon b Ormond	2
*M P Maynard b Ormond	0
P A Cottey c Nixon b Williamson	25
†A D Shaw b Williamson	0
R D B Croft c Wells b Williamson	35
Waqar Younis c Sutcliffe b Wells	28
S L Watkin c Nixon b Millns	1
D A Cosker not out	1
Extras (b 2, lb 8, w 10, nb 22)	42
Total (57.5 overs)	226

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-33, 3-65, 4-71, 5-126, 6-126, 7-159, 8-206, 9-215

BOWLING: Millns 16-3-56-3; Ormond 15-4-64-2; Pierson 5-0-33-0; Williamson 9.5-3-19-3; Wells 12-2-52-2

Second Innings

S P James c Johnson b Williamson	21
H Morris not out	23
A Dale b Wells	13
M J Powell lbw b Wells	0
P A Cottey not out	6
Extras (lb 2, nb 2)	4
Total (3 wkts)	67

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-61, 3-61

BOWLING: Millns 6-2-20-0; Williamson 8-2-21-1; Ormond 6-3-16-0; Wells 4-1-8-2; Maddy 0.2-0-0-0

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells c Shaw b Watkin	3
D L Maddy c Shaw b Waqar	[illegible]
I J Sutcliffe b Watkin	19
*J J Whitaker lbw b Croft	62
N C Johnson b Watkin	6
B F Smith b Watkin	0
†P A Nixon not out	37
D J Millns c Shaw b Croft	1
D Williamson b Watkin	[illegible]
J Ormond c Morris b Watkin	[illegible]
A R K Pierson c Morris b Watkin	2
Extras (lb 5)	5
Total (62.4 overs)	175

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-35, 3-62, 4-75, 5-78, 6-135, 7-141, 8-145, 9-167

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 13-2-55-1; Watkin 19.4-8-41-7; Dale 3-0-23-0; Croft 16-6-35-2; Cosker 11-5-18-0

Bonus points: Leicestershire 4, Glamorgan 5

Umpires: H D Bird and B Dudleston

Northamptonshire v Durham

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 180 runs behind Durham

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 144 (M M Betts 9 for 64)

Second Innings

R R Montgomerie not out	35
A J Swann not out	16
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (no wkt)	52

BOWLING: Brown 8-8-0-0; Betts 4-0-20-0; Boiling 7-5-10-0; Cox 2-1-1-0

DURHAM: First Innings

J J B Lewis b Taylor	17
S Hutton lbw b Davies	[illegible]
†M P Speight st Ripley b Brown	[illegible]
*D C Boon c Ripley b Mohammad	[illegible]
J E Morris c Ripley b Brown	5
R M S Weston c Bailey b Mohammad	24
M J Foster b Mohammad	0
M M Betts lbw b Penberthy	[illegible]
J Boiling not out	23
D M Cox c Ripley b Mohammad	22
S J E Brown b Mohammad	0
Extras (b 15, lb 10, nb 6)	31
Total	376

Score at 120 overs: 352-8

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-103, 3-206, 4-234, 5-292, 6-296, 7-315, 8-342, 9-376

BOWLING: Mohammad Akram 24.5-2-106-5; Taylor 31-4-96-1; Davies 34-14-63-1; Penberthy 16-4-40-1; Brown 15-1-47-2

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 2, Durham 8

Umpires: J H Hampshire and R A White

Sussex v Surrey

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 243 runs behind Surrey

SUSSEX: First Innings

M T E Peirce lbw b Bicknell	0
R K Rao c A J Hollioake b Bicknell	0
N R Taylor b Lewis	3
K Greenfield b Lewis	1
K Newell lbw b Bicknell	5
J Carpenter b Salisbury	19
*†P Moores lbw b Lewis	30
A D Edwards c Ratcliffe b Lewis	20
A A Khan c Stewart b Lewis	15
M A Robinson c Thorpe b Saqlain	4
R J Kirtley not out	15
Extras (b 2, lb 2, w 2, nb 19)	25
Total (60.1 overs)	137

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-5, 3-5, 4-13, 5-23, 6-47, 7-85, 8-104, 9-113

BOWLING: Bicknell 21-6-53-3; Lewis 20-8-42-5; A J Hollioake 3-1-3-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 8.1-1-15-1; Salisbury 8-2-20-1

Second Innings

M T E Peirce lbw b Salisbury	11
R K Rao not out	6
N R Taylor lbw b Salisbury	2
A D Edwards c Butcher b Salisbury	0
R J Kirtley c Thorpe b Salisbury	0
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (4 wkts)	20

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-20, 3-20, 4-20

BOWLING: Bicknell 3-1-3-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 6-4-3-0; Salisbury [illegible]

SURREY: First Innings

M A Butcher c Newell b Edwards	61
J D Ratcliffe lbw b Robinson	19
†A J Stewart c Edwards b Kirtley	34
G P Thorpe not out	106
A D Brown c Moores b Robinson	37
*A J Hollioake c Moores b Edwards	87
B C Hollioake c Carpenter b Edwards	19
C C Lewis lbw b Edwards	7
M P Bicknell not out	2
Extras (b 6, lb 6, w 2, nb 14)	28
Total (7 wkts dec, 75 overs)	400

I D K Salisbury and Saqlain Mushtaq did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-115, 3-167, 4-217, 5-359, 6-383, 7-395

BOWLING: Kirtley 19-3-89-1; Edwards 15-1-94-4; Robinson 19-3-80-2; Newell 7-0-35-0; Khan 15-0-90-0

Bonus points: Sussex [illegible], Surrey 8

Umpires: B J Meyer and R Palmer

Worcestershire v Middlesex

KIDDERMINSTER (third day of four): Middlesex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 207 runs ahead of Worcestershire

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 252 (A Sheriyar 5 for 55)

Second Innings

J C Pooley c Leatherdale b Sheriyar	0
J H Kallis not out	115
*M R Ramprakash not out	72
Extras (b 1, lb 6, w 2, nb 10)	19
Total (1 wkt)	206

FALL OF WICKET: 1-0

BOWLING: Sheriyar 11-2-34-1; Mirza 5-0-25-0; Lampitt 7-0-45-0; Illingworth 20-7-41-0; Haynes 9-1-43-0; Moody 5-2-13-0

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

*T M Moody c Pooley b Kallis	[illegible]
W P C Weston lbw b Hewitt	1
G A Hick c Shah b Fraser	0
K R Spiring c Pooley b Fraser	[illegible]
G R Haynes b Hewitt	29
D A Leatherdale not out	88
†S J Rhodes not out	59
Extras (lb 6, w 6, nb 4)	15
Total (5 wkts dec, 90.5 overs)	251

M M Mirza, S R Lampitt, R K Illingworth and A Sheriyar did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-15, 3-56, 4-70, 5-139

BOWLING: Fraser 30-8-55-2; Hewitt 17-6-36-2; Kallis 19-3-58-1; Johnson 14.5-4-51-0; Tufnell 13-2-42-0; Ramprakash 1-0-3-0

Bonus points: Worcestershire 6, Middlesex 4

Umpires: J H Harris and K E Palmer

NatWest Under-19 third international

England v Zimbabwe

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Zimbabwe Under-19, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 148 runs ahead of England Under-19

ZIMBABWE UNDER-19: First Innings

N A Ferreira c Read b Franks	0
D A Marillier c Read b Franks	16
M A Vermeulen not out	3
A P Hoffman c Schofield b Laraman	24
M L Nkala c Peters b Napier	4
*A J Erasmus b Franks	49
†C Delport c Powell b Sidebottom	3
A G Steyn c Read b Sidebottom	4
B D McCoun c Laraman b Sidebottom	2
I A Engelbrecht c Powell b Franks	0
D Mutendera b Franks	1
Extras (b 4, lb 8, w 6, nb 20)	38
Total	146

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-52, 3-56, 4-72, 5-80, 6-87, 7-109, 8-117, 9-129

BOWLING: Sidebottom 15-3-28-3; Franks 20.5-7-66-5; Laraman 15-6-25-1; Napier 5-0-10-1; Schofield 2-0-5-0

Second Innings

D A Marillier lbw b Schofield	82
N A Ferreira c Read b Laraman	0
A P Hoffman c Laraman b Franks	7
*A J Erasmus c Peters b Schofield	23
M L Nkala not out	46
A G Steyn not out	0
Extras (b 2, lb 7, w 3, nb 8)	20
Total (4 wkts)	178

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-25, 3-75, 4-178

BOWLING: Franks 10-2-41-1; Laraman 6-1-27-1; Napier 6-0-24-0; Schofield 11-3-31-2; Powell 6-0-28-0; Swann 5-2-19-0

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings

R W T Key c Mutendera b Nkala	12
S D Peters c Steyn b Mutendera	46
G R Napier c Delport b Steyn	38
G P Swann c McCoun b Mutendera	2
*Z C Morris b Mutendera	10
J C Powell c McCoun b Steyn	2
A W Laraman lbw b Hoffman	6
†C P M Read c Delport b Hoffman	4
C Schofield c Steyn b Mutendera	30
P J Franks lbw b Steyn	7
R J Sidebottom not out	8
Extras (lb 4, w 2, nb 3)	9
Total	176

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-77, 3-94, 4-106, 5-114, 6-114, 7-119, 8-131, 9-166

BOWLING: Mutendera 19-5-51-4; Nkala 11-4-51-1; Steyn 13.5-5-42-3; Hoffman 6-2-28-2

Umpires: G Sharp and P Willey

مكتب امن الإعلام

TENNIS

Henman brought down to earth by South African

From David Powell in New York

IN much the same way that Tim Henman produced a *thrilling* victory over a high seed at Wimbledon, only to lose in the next round against an unseeded opponent, the British No 2 went out in the second round of the *United* States Open here at Flushing Meadows yesterday. He was *beaten in* straight sets by Wayne Ferreira, from South Africa, having put out Thomas Muster, the fifth seed from Austria, in the first round.

Ferreira *won* 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in 1hr 33min. Having beaten Richard Krajicek, the defending champion and No.4 seed at Wimbledon, Henman was *put out in the quarter-finals* by Michael Stich, from Germany. Then, as now, Henman won only nine games, playing as inexplicably *poorly as he did yesterday.*

Henman's nadir was the second set in which he lost five games to love. Against Muster he had combined efficient service, *crisp volleying and* dexterity of touch but here he sprayed errors from every angle. A rain break, when Henman was two sets and 3-1 down, proved only a short delay to Henman's ignominious departure.

Greg Rusedski *had* fewer problems during his win over Ferreira's compatriot, Marcos Ondruska, on Thursday night. The small band of British supporters cheering him on could not be heard beneath the collective din of a flight out of nearby La Guardia airport and a train rattling by on the Long Island railroad. Rusedski, though, remained oblivious to the noise.

As the South African served, the British No 1 struck a stinging return that did not *come back. Point to Rusedski* who, by now, was beginning to run away with the match. "I did not hear it that much," Rusedski said of the din. "I am *not letting outside distractions* bother me."

Twelve months ago Rusedski was eliminated in the first round for the third successive year. The combination of the improvement in his game and the upgrading of the *national tennis centre have* spirited Rusedski into the third round. The venue, once despised by the majority of players, is more agreeable *now.* "You *do not feel* as claustrophobic," Rusedski said. "I never really enjoyed coming to the Open, but I think I am changing things this week."

Results 41

According to the rankings, Rusedski should progress un*troubled into the last 16.* His next opponent is Jens Knippschild, from Germany, 22, who, ranked 100th, is 80 places lower than the Briton. *This year is* the first in which Knippschild has qualified for grand-slam tournaments and *he has yet to progress* beyond the third round in any of them.

However, Knippschild's victory over Henman in the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's, before Wimbledon, ensures that Rusedski is alert to the German's capabilities, *although this will be their first* meeting.

Rusedski has yet to drop a set. He defeated Ondruska 7-6, 6-4, 6-1, having eliminated David Wheaton, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 1991, in the first round. Serving 21 aces, Rusedski *overwhelmed* Ondruska after the South African had shown some resistance in the first set.

Playing under floodlights *on court No 4,* Rusedski *took* a while to warm-up. Rain had caused play to begin five hours late and, by the time the Briton appeared, he had been waiting *in the grounds for nine* hours. He secured the opening set at his first opportunity, putting away a high volley. Ondruska stared at Rusedski *in disbelief when the Briton* served a third successive ace in the second game of the second set to lead 40-0. However, Rusedski made a meal of the game, conceding two points feebly before clearing his plate with a fourth ace.

Ondruska was unable to hold his service in the fifth game, which cost him the set. The Briton raced through the third without dropping a point on his service.

Samantha Smith, the only British woman in the tourna*ment,* was crushed 6-1, 6-0 in the second round by Conchita Martinez, the No 7 seed, from Spain. The most absorbing feature of the women's singles *during the evening session* was the way in which Mirjana Lucic, from Croatia, overwhelmed Aubrie Rippner, a Californian, 6-0, 6-1.

Lucic, 15, is the youngest player in the women's singles, though she appears much *older, perhaps 19 or 20.* Strikingly similar to Steffi Graf in appearance and power, she faces Jana Novotna, from the Czech Republic, for a place in the last 16.

Novotna, who took Martina Hingis to a deciding set in the Wimbledon final this year, went to watch Lucic play to sample what she might be up against, her need for attention to detail all the more important *for the fact that she has* played little since Wimbledon due to injury. Call it precocity, *or call it confidence,* but Lucic said that she was not bothered in the least that Novotna had been spying on her.

Rusedski gives a backhand return close attention during his second-round victory over Ondruska

STEPHEN MUNDAY / ALLSPORT

Harrington scratches his head in disbelief after sinking another long birdie putt

Polland returns to the fore

By Mel Webb

IN HIS salad days in the Seventies Eddie Polland was a *free spirit, a man who believed* in touch and flair on the golf course, and filling the cup of *life to the brim off it.* Less than a year ago, though, he feared that his ability to strike a ball properly had gone forever. Now, thanks to spare-part surgery, *he is smiling again.*

That smile broadened yesterday when he took the lead, with a six-under-par 66, in the Motor Seniors Classic at Goodwood Park. The former Ryder Cup player was forced out of golf for 6½ years with *crippling rheumatoid arthritis* in most of the joints on his left side.

Polland was ready to accept that his ambition to play on the PGA European Seniors Tour when he passed 50 in June would never be realised. Not so.

*What appeared to be virtu*ally Polland's last chance came last February when his left elbow and thumb were rebuilt in a long and difficult operation.

Polland says that he is now beginning to hit the ball *properly again. Beginning? If* he ever gets it right, most of the others might as well go home and leave him to it.

He had six birdies — and no bogeys — *as he* took a one-stroke lead over Deray Simon, with Randall Vines on 69 and *five players on* 70. *Tommy* Horton, the tournament favourite, struggled to a 75 as the wind strengthened in the afternoon.

"I know what José María Olazábal must have gone through when he had all the trouble with his feet," Polland *said.* "*I thought I would never* play again, either. I'm really happy just to be out here — today was a bonus."

It was Polland's best round since joining the seniors' ranks, and one that he has been threatening to produce *for some time.* His *one* weakness had been inaccuracy off the tee, but even that has been fixed by replacing the shafts in his clubs. Another transplant, another cure.

"They felt heavy and stiff," he said. "Now they feel just right. *I'm not sure how* the new shafts are helping. To be honest, I think most of my problems were between the ears — I was starting to think I had arthritis in my head as well as everywhere else."

GOLF

Rider to Cup debate added by Harrington

From John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent in Munich

*THERE have been few re*sponses to pressure as courageous as Padraig Har*rington's in* the BMW International Open here. After the European Open in Dublin last week, when it looked as though Harrington had lost a realistic chance of making his debut in the Ryder Cup next month, he flew to Munich and yesterday played *one of the* outstanding rounds of the year.

It was a round that bears out the old saw that golf is played largely between the ears and it moved Colin Montgomerie to generous *praise. "He did a hell of a job* today." Montgomerie said of Harrington's 64, which has given the Irishman a one-stroke lead as he strives to gain a *place in* Severiano Ballesteros's Europe Ryder Cup team against the United States next month. "I hope he can continue."

*Harrington and his part*ners, Mark James and Thomas Bjorn, were a cumulative 23 under par and were the centrepiece of a dazzling second round, when the *scoring* was as good as the weather was bad. Amid rain, wind and *even a feeble ray or two* of sunshine, most of those in competition for Ballesteros's team demonstrated immense resolve. This must have been heartening to the *captain,* who was to be seen in the mid-afternoon with a slight smile *on his face* as he paced around a room in front of a massive scoreboard.

Just as Justin Leonard's victory in the Open Champ*ionship was compelling* because of the authoritative way that he claimed the prize, so it was heartening for Europe's chances at Valderrama next month to see so many men able to play outstanding golf when it was most needed.

For example, James, *who is* seventeenth in the Ryder Cup points table, had a 64. James, 43, has appeared in seven Ryder Cups and is anxious for one *last hurrah. A round* containing nine birdies was an obvious expression of his seri*ous* intent, though *it* was almost certainly too little, too late. So was the 66 by Sam Torrance, the old trouper, whose only chance now is to be *selected by Ballesteros.* Torrance's love affair with the biennial competition goes back to Walton Heath in 1981, when he hit the first stroke of the match on his debut. "The dream's over," Torrance growled, knowing that he had missed the cut. "*But at least* I gave it a good shot."

A 65 by Bjorn, ninth in the table, silenced the siren voices *that had been wondering* whether the Dane had a right to be in the kitchen when the heat *was at its most* intense. "I needed to do something today, and I did," the 26-year-old, *who is* 11 under par, said.

Costantino Rocca, needing to protect his eighth place in *the* table, recovered from a disappointing start to come home in 31, *five under par,* and make sure that he did not miss the halfway cut. This was the *prospect that faced* José María Olazábal, who had been five under par *after his* first round and could not improve in the second. The cut *fell at five under,* the lowest ever in Europe, so Olazábal survived by the slenderest margin.

Paul Broadhurst, in thirteenth place, *did himself no* harm with a 67, produced under the eye of Ballesteros. *He is nine under par.* Peter Baker, the overnight leader, *who must win here to get into* the team, had a 68 to join Montgomerie on 12 under par in third place.

No one's score could match Harrington's, though. The Irishman, who will be 26 tomorrow, is a scrapper, a *short-game specialist.* This course, which is flat, dull and not the least bit intimidating, was made for him. "He is a bit streaky and hits more bad shots than *Thomas,*" *James* said, after watching the two younger men, "but his short game is in the Langer and Ballesteros class at their best."

Harrington has a manner about him that is engaging. *He has a head for figures,* as he should, since he was trained as an accountant, and he is used to matchplay events. If he keeps his head these next two days, then a place in the Ryder Cup team should be his two years after he represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup.

SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS: 130: P *Harrington* 66, 64. 131: F Tarnaud (Fr) 63, 68. 132: S Ames (Trin) 69, 63; P Baker 64, 68; C Montgomerie 65, 67; C Watts 64, 68. 133: T Bjorn (Den) 68, 65; F Jacobson (Swe) 66, 67. 134: R Karlsson (Swe) 67, 67; *P Curry* 65, 69; *M James* 70, 64; W Westner (SA) 64, 70; R Russell 65, 69; M Gronberg (Swe) 65, 69; P Quirici (Switz) 68, 66; P Price 65, 69. 135: J Coceres (Arg) 69, 66; P Lawrie 66, 69; P Broadhurst 68, 67; M Mouland 67, 68; *C Suneson (Sp)* 65, 70; P Sjoland (Swe) 64, 71. 136: D Hospital (Sp) 71, 65; G Turner (NZ) 68, 68; S Field 68, 68; J Lomas 66, 70; J Townsend (US) 66, 70; R Chapman 66, 70; J Sandelin (Swe) 67, 69; P Hedblom (Swe) 64, 72; D Edlund (Swe) 66, 70.

ICE HOCKEY

Local talent is left out in the cold

By Norman de Mesquita

ICE hockey returns this weekend but, while standards may improve at the highest level, the long term future of the *sport in Great Britain* seems less assured as the Superleague teams turn their backs on British-born players and spend more money on imports.

Ashley Tait, one of the more *talented* British youngsters, has been released by Nottingham Panthers, for whom he has played throughout his seven-year senior career, and Trevor Redmond, who was often Basingstoke Bison's best player last season, has been deemed *surplus to re*quirements by Peter Woods, who coaches Great Britain as well as the Bison. It is a similar story across the board *as the eight Superleague* teams ignore local talent.

There is still no senior ice *hockey* played *in London* as the group that was intent on bringing back the sport to Streatham, and had even flown in a Canadian coach, *found that the owner of the* rink was not prepared to install sufficient seating.

All the Superleague teams claim to have strengthened their squads, although Cardiff Devils will be without their outstanding goaltender, Stevie Lyle, who has decided to try to forge a career in North America.

Outside the Superleague, the British Ice Hockey Association hopes that the British National League will provide a better competition than last season. Unfortunately, Swindon and Whitley Bay will no longer be competing.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Packers prepare to repel challengers

By Nick Szczepanik

THE annual competition to reach the event that has, in recent years, become one of the most foregone conclusions in sport, begins tomorrow *when the National Football* League (NFL) season kicks off. Twenty-two weeks later, on January 25 in San Diego, the National Football Conference (NFC) champions will, in all probability, defeat the American Football Conference (AFC) champions in Super Bowl XXXII.

Most likely to be celebrating, for the second successive season, are Green Bay Packers, who, after winning the Vince Lombardi trophy in 1967 and 1968, waited 29 years to regain it. If training-camp talk of an unbeaten season is to be believed, the Packers are in no mood to relinquish it. Brett Favre, *the quarterback, is the* most compelling reason to back them.

Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers are not the NFC powers of recent years and, although always play-off contenders, are less likely than Carolina Panthers, an expansion team in 1995 but NFC championship game losers in 1996, *to run the Packers close.*

Dallas have gone through a particularly troubled pre-season off *the field, the arrest* of Barry Switzer, the head coach, for attempting to board a plane while carrying a loaded gun, being the lowest point. Nevertheless, their game in Pittsburgh tomorrow, a repeat of Super Bowl XXX, is the pick of the opening day: a Dallas victory would go some way to restoring morale.

If there is an AFC team that can redress the imbalance, it is *unlikely* to be New England *Patriots, the runners-up last* year; a tough schedule and the departure of Bill Parcells, the head coach, to their division rivals, New York Jets, will *probably prove too much.*

The two most potent challengers to the NFC monopoly are led by veterans constantly trying to lose the title "best *quarterback never to* win a Super Bowl": John Elway, whose Denver Broncos peaked too soon last season and had nothing left when it counted against Jacksonville in the play-offs, and Dan Marino, of *Miami Dolphins.*

In a pre-season game between the teams in Mexico City, the 37-year-old Elway, a three-time Super Bowl loser, tore a bicep muscle and is struggling to be fit for the opening of the season, but *may be able to give his arm* more rest during games than hitherto: the emergence of Terrell Davis as one of the league's best running backs means that stopping Elway is no longer a guarantee of stopping Denver.

Miami, in the second year of a rebuilding process under Jimmy Johnson, the former *Dallas head coach,* also expanded their ground game last year, through their rookie *running* back, Karim Abdul-Jabbar, and will have an easier schedule, having finished fourth in the division last time. However, the development *of the team has not* yet reached a point where it matches Marino's urgency to *win the big one.*

Whether Miami, Denver or outsiders such as Seattle win the AFC, though, the odds — and the Packers - say that they *are playing for second place.*

SPORT IN BRIEF

McGregor holds last medal chance

GREAT Britain's only hope of winning a medal at the world track cycling championships in Perth, Australia, rests with Yvonne McGregor in the 3,000 metres pursuit, which begins *today. McGregor has already beaten Antonella Bellutti, of* Italy, the Olympic champion, this season.

Britain's men failed to qualify for the last eight of the 4,000 metres team pursuit yesterday when Rob Hayles was lost to the four-man squad after only 600 metres of their qualifying *round. Hayles's front wheel was overlapped by the rear wheel* of Bryan Steel, then riding in third position, and, in trying to extricate himself, Hayles lost contact.

Marshall falls in Hong Kong

SQUASH: Brett Martin, the No 10 seed, of Australia, produced a surprise result in the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Open by beating Peter Marshall, of England, 17-14, 11-15, 15-9, 15-7 in 56 minutes. Martin exposed Marshall's stamina problems, caused by suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome *for two years. Martin now meets Jansher Khan,* who looked patchy beating Martin Heath, of Scotland, 15-10, 15-12, 15-11.

Test rivalry to resume

CRICKET: India and Pakistan have agreed to resume Test match tours after an eight-year suspension of fixtures between *the two countries. The resumption will initially be at A-team* level with a three-match series next winter. "Both India and Pakistan are keen to revive the Test series and the cricket boards have agreed to resume reciprocal tours," Jaywant Lele, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said.

Price is right

BOWLS: Mary Price, of England, and Margaret Johnston, of Ireland, picked up three wins apiece yesterday to stretch their *unbeaten runs to five in the battle for the singles title at the* Atlantic Rim championships at Llandrindod Wells. Price and Johnston, who leads the round-robin table on shot aggregate, will *meet in the eighth round of matches in an encounter that* could prove to be a title decider.

Cavalleri impresses

GOLF: Silvia Cavalleri, winner of the US women's amateur championship, took a significant step towards retaining her European individual title as she stood head and shoulders above her rivals in the wind at Formby yesterday. The diminutive 24-year-old Italian posted a highly impressive 70, two under par, to go to the top of the leaderboard with a 145 total, four strokes ahead of Karine Icher, of France.

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker brothers falter at the last

From Jenny MacArthur in Mannheim, Germany

GERMANY, already the world and Olympic showjumping champions, added the European title to their formidable list of successes *when* they held off a strong challenge from Holland to win by 5.86 points.

The victory — their first in the event since 1981, the last time that Germany hosted the European championships — came after superb performances from Ludger Beerbaum, on Sprehe Ratina, and his younger brother, Markus, on Lady Weingard. Both had double clear rounds. *Ludger,* the 1992 Olympic champion, now has one fence in hand over Hugo Simon, of Australia, for the individual contest, which has its final tomorrow.

Great Britain, who had been lying in the silver-medal *position overnight, took the* bronze after disappointing opening rounds from John Whitaker, on Virtual Village Welham — normally the most reliable partnership in the team — and his younger brother, Michael, on Virtual Village Ashley. Both incurred eight faults. John, who was runner-up behind Beerbaum *on the opening day, has* dropped to fourteenth place individually.

It was only the fine riding of Robert Smith, on Tees *Hanauer* — a 17-year-old horse who was never supposed to be championship material — and a late rally by Geoff Billington, on It's Otto, *that kept Britain in the hunt.* Both riders had four faults in the opening round at fence 12 — a treble, bedecked with distracting blue European Union flags — *but* were faultless in the second round.

Ronnie Masseralla, the team manager, who had come here hoping to regain the gold that *Britain won on* three successive occasions from 1985, said: "We were fighting all along. I'm *delighted for* Robert — his riding was pure *class* — but I would never have dreamt that John would have had eight faults."

Whitaker, who collected the faults at two early fences when 17-year-old Welham appeared to be half asleep, had looked set to compensate in the second round, in which he was clear until the last fence, but it was not his day. Taking "too much of a pull" before fence 14, Welham ground to a halt, dismantling the fence. Michael, *frustratingly,* incurred four faults at fence ten, a narrow upright, in both rounds.

Holland, inspired by an opening clear round by Emile Hendrix on his *ten-year-old* mare, Ten Cate Finesse, *looked* set to give the Germans a battle royal until Jan Tops, on Top Gun La Silla, gained an expensive eight *faults* in the second round and the challenge fizzled out.

Ludger Beerbaum: superb

BOWLS

All-rounder Brittan is the master

By David Rhys Jones

CROWN and flat green bowls are similar, but essentially different. Richard Brittan, who won the English level green *singles* championship at Worthing's Beach House Park yesterday, is a master of both.

Brittan, 37, started playing on the crown greens of Birmingham 25 years ago, and won several tournaments, but was not *introduced* to the flat-green code until 1986, when he was persuaded to join the Erdington Court club.

When, *with* Robbie Robinson, he won the national pairs title on the flat in 1993, he decided to concentrate his attention on English Bowling *Association* (*flat* green) competitions and this year, to the disapproval of his crown green friends at Sutton Park, has played only ten matches on crown greens, winning nine.

"To be honest, I don't play much bowls at all these days," he said. "I have three *small* children and have deliberately *restricted* myself to playing in the Warwickshire competitions, and somehow got *through to* Worthing in three *out of four* events."

Brittan reached the final yesterday with a 21-12 win over Paul Broderick, and then kept his nose in front of Martin Coles, 28, from Garston, to become the first Warwickshire player to carry off the national singles *title.*

Earlier, Coles had dashed *the hopes* of Andy Thomson, the 1991 champion, coming back from deficits of 3-11 and 13-19 to win their semi-final 21-20.

هكذا من الأصل

Wales seek to build on summer success

By Gerald Davies

SUMMER'S lease is not over and yet the first European rugby union international is upon us. Wales play Romania this afternoon. If the time is out of joint, so is the place. As if to add to the aberration, the game will be played at that football stronghold, the Racecourse Ground, Wrexham.

In these devolutionary days, there is need clearly to unite Wales. Rugby should be more of a national game and young players channelled in the right direction. Close to a dozen North Walians perform in the premier division. This is not enough.

There will be two more internationals — New Zealand in November, Italy in February — before the ritual of the five nations' championship begins. Stamina is called for. And not just from the players, I might add. Not that there has been a fallow period for the Welsh players who, during the summer, made an unbeaten six-match tour to the United States and Canada, an achievement worth shouting about. Canada, particularly, can be a notoriously awkward opponents, as England found to their cost when they lost in Vancouver in 1993, as did France in Ottawa in 1994.

"The summer tour was reasonably important," Gwyn Jones, the Wales captain, said. "If we were disappointed that we did not play as we would have wished we were, nevertheless, very pleased that we came back unbeaten.

"They play an unconventional game out there and Canada have a tactical edge, provided by Gareth Rees at fly half. To win at Fletcher's Field in Toronto is no small matter. This has given us confidence, as will the fact that the Lions players are back in the fold.

His recurring ankle injury, however, deprives the Welsh team of the formidable presence of Scott Gibbs. This allows Leigh Davies to take his place. It is even doubtful whether Gibbs will have recovered in time for Swansea's Heineken Cup match against Wasps next weekend.

Jones, who with a year to go to complete his medical studies is taking a two-year sabbatical leading up to the World Cup, believes Romania will attempt a fluid game. "They have a heavy scrum and their back five players are athletic. There is a strong French influence to their play," he said.

WALES: K Morgan (Pontypridd), W Proctor (Llanelli), A Bateman (Richmond), L Davies (Cardiff), G Thomas (Bridgend), A Thomas (Swansea), P John (Pontypridd); C Loader (Swansea), B Williams (Richmond), D Young (Cardiff), S Moore (Swansea), M Rowley (Pontypridd), R Appleyard (Swansea), N Thomas (Bath), G Jones (Cardiff, captain)

ROMANIA: V Maftei (Cluj University); L Colceriu (Steaua Bucharest), R Gontineac (Pau), G Solomie (Timisoara University), I Rotaru (Dinamo Bucharest); S Guranescu (Dinamo Bucharest), M Iacob (Dinamo Bucharest); G Vlad (Narbonne), M Radoi (Dinamo Bucharest), A Salageanu (Dinamo Bucharest), T Branza (Narbonne, captain), V Nedelcu (Dinamo Bucharest), F Corodeanu (Steaua Bucharest), E Septar (Farul Constanta), C Draguceanu (Steaua Bucharest).

Referee: I Ramage (Scotland).

South Seas magician offering Leicester new dimension

Sevens specialist widens his horizons

DAVID HANDS

Given the ethnic mix that has become so strong a feature of the community in Leicester (the city motto of *Semper Eadem*, Always the Same, seems distinctly inappropriate in that sense), the introduction of overseas players to the rugby club seems no more than natural. Yet the conjunction of Leicester and the Pacific islands strikes an unexpectedly exotic note in the down-to-earth Midlands.

Will they be calling Waisale Serevi "me duck" by the time that his two-year contract with the Tigers ends? If the little Fijian can reproduce the magical form that has so frequently made him the player of the tournament at the annual Hong Kong sevens, they will be calling him Merlin, because this is one player who stands alone.

Watching him on the Hong Kong stage is to watch a professor with a study full of particularly dull pupils. There are times when Serevi will glance, almost like one peering over the top of his spectacles, to see whether his class can pick up the thrust of his argument; he will stand still, luring his opponent on, give a shimmy of the hips and he is gone.

He has the hitch-kick and speed off the mark that makes him utterly devastating in the abbreviated game. Yet there, as Serevi himself observes, the ground seems so big; put 30 players into the same area, rather than 14, and the canvas upon which the artist paints seems suddenly cluttered.

The complaint has haunted Serevi's representative career. Even his own countrymen have asked the question why, if he can dominate in sevens, can he not do so at 15-a-side? Since making his first international appearance against a New Zealand divisional XV in 1988, Serevi has appeared a paltry 18 times for his country, who have never seemed sure of where to play him — fly half, wing or full back.

It is a question for which Serevi has a ready answer. "You must first have the ball, and if you do not have big forwards who will work hard at the set pieces, life becomes difficult," he said. But not only that: Fiji's success at sevens made them pour all their limited resources into that game, rather than a consistent 15-a-side programme, until the shock of failure to qualify for the 1995 World Cup forced them to reconsider.

The multitalented Serevi plays on the wing today. Photograph: Dave Rogers / Allsport

That is part of the reason Serevi is in Leicester. He played against them in the inaugural Sanyo Cup match at Twickenham in 1996 and perceived a team well-equipped at forward. At the time, Peter Wheeler, then Leicester's president, inquired about his availability and when Serevi returned for the Sanyo Cup match in May this year, the deal was clinched, along with that which brought Marika Vunibaka, the Fijian wing, to the Midlands.

Already he has established a rapport with his new colleagues, his command of English good enough even to pick up the humour and chaffing that is part of any changing-room. He taught English during his three years playing for Mitsubishi Motors in Kyoto, and learnt Japanese at the same time.

Now he must command the respect of colleagues, opponents and supporters and Bob Dwyer, Leicester's director of rugby, has no doubt that he will. "He's very strong — I doubt if there's a player in the team with better muscle definition — and if he can't translate the skills he shows at sevens to the 15-a-side game, then that's the fault of the coach — which puts me under fire," Dwyer said. "If you can play one, you can play the other."

Serevi took to rugby, as so many Fijians do, in pick-up games at school in Suva, where he was born in 1968, one of three brothers and two sisters. Drive around the islands and you cannot avoid seeing barefoot youngsters with an old ball but, whereas many grow to a willowy height, Serevi remained on the short side; when he toured Britain in 1989 with the national side he was programmed at 5ft 3in, though he now reckons to stand 5ft 8in — still not enough to cast off his island nickname of "Small".

Two years later he played fly half in the World Cup, Fiji losing all three pool games in France and retreating from the world stage. Now, however, they have returned, announcing themselves last year with a 60-0 win over Western Samoa, when Serevi played full back. They have since beaten Tonga and the Cook Islands to ensure a place in the next qualifying stage for the 1999 World Cup.

"We have to rebuild our reputation at 15-a-side," Serevi said. "If we build a good engine-room in the pack [and Fiji have the New Zealander, Brad Johnstone, to help them do so] then we have the backs to score tries." The proof of that pudding may be seen at Welford Road in the next few weeks as Dwyer tries to decide where his multiskilled import should play — he starts against Gloucester today on the wing, but could appear almost anywhere in the back division. Untrammelled by goal-kicking duties — Leicester have Joel Stransky for those — Serevi can indulge himself. "It will be a big challenge, not only playing rugby but with the weather," he said. The East Midlands will seem a long way from Fiji's swaying palms this winter and Serevi remembers the chilly winds that pursued the 1989 touring side through Britain and the numbing rain that dampened island spirits in Scotland during the 1993 World Cup sevens.

> 'I know I'll be heavily marked but that should leave space for somebody else in the team'

"Even the New Zealanders complained about the cold then," he said. "I hope it's not always like that." So, too, will his two daughters, Una, three, and Asinate, two, who will join Serevi and Kara, his wife, within the next two months. Kara must first conclude a tour of duty with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Sinai, where she is a welfare officer attached to a military hospital, before the family is reunited in the homely surroundings of Rolleston, a village some ten miles east of Leicester.

By then Serevi will hope to have waved his wand, not only as a scorer of tries, but as a purveyor of opportunity. "I know I will be heavily marked, but that should leave space for someone else," he says and smiles the smile of a man confident of his own ability. Unlike the motto, Leicester will not be the same this season.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Broncos prepare for return of Offiah

By Christopher Irvine

MARTIN OFFIAH appears to be ready to see out his career with London Broncos in a full-time capacity. Negotiations with the former Great Britain wing will resume after his reappearance against Bradford Bulls, the Stones Super League champions, at the Stoop Memorial Ground tomorrow.

Offiah's early return to the Broncos in the encounter between the top two league finishers — he was not due back until next season — follows his aborted move to Bedford Rugby Union Club. Talks between Offiah, 30, and the Broncos to tie him to the club for the remainder of his career have still to be finalised. His place in the side for the Bradford match is the result of an extension to an earlier short-term agreement for a dozen appearances this season.

"I was never looking forward to the new season at Bedford," Offiah said. "I could have acted keen, lined my pockets and no one would have been any the wiser, but the potential at London is so exciting that I would rather be full-time there."

Offiah recently announced his retirement from rugby union. He is keen to concentrate on league after back-to-back seasons playing both codes, including one unprecedented weekend last March when he turned out for the Broncos and Bedford. That episode helped to make up his mind that a dual rugby career was not working to his satisfaction.

After ten years in the top flight of league, Offiah often found the transition back to union frustrating. He was verbally and visibly relieved when he resumed with London at the start of the season, although his try-scoring this year has not been of the prodigious nature that marked his record-breaking feats for Widnes and Wigan.

There are unlikely to be many repeats of the short-term moves to union by league players last season. Most union clubs now only want players prepared to change codes on a permanent basis, such as Tulsen Tollett, who makes his farewell appearance for London at half back tomorrow before he joins Harlequins as a centre.

Wigan will no longer agree to any short-term union contracts and have dismissed speculation linking Gary Connolly, the Great Britain centre, who played for Harlequins for four months, last year, with Newcastle. Connolly is due to undergo a long-awaited knee operation during the winter.

David Bradshaw, the Wigan chief executive, said: "We have learnt our lesson from last winter. The players who went to union came back in poor shape. They were either jaded or down on fitness. Gary Connolly suffered major knee problems and we don't want that kind of situation to develop again."

Bradford's hopes of completing the season undefeated were ruined by Wigan's victory at Odsal last Monday. Playing London, away, is potentially an even harder task and they may now lack the incentive to repeat the victory that they achieved in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup at the Stoop in February.

CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE SECOND DIVISION

Bedford

Richmond and Newcastle showed that money can buy promotion; now it should be Bedford's turn. Backed by Frank Warren, the boxing promoter, the club lost out in the play-offs last season, but have spent heavily again. Martin Offiah may have gone, but Rory Underwood has flown in from Leicester with Aadel Kardooni. With Geoff Cooke in full-time control alongside Paul Turner, Bedford have the experience and wherewithal to secure promotion. Nothing less will do.

Director of rugby: Geoff Cooke Coach: Paul Turner Captain: tba.
TRANSFERS: In: Peter Anglesea (Orrell), Simon Crabb (Waikato Chiefs), Justin Cullen (Otago Highlanders), Jason Forster (Bridgend), David Hinkins (Bristol), Aadel Kardooni (Leicester), Mark Kirby (Otley), Richard Kirke (Waikato Chiefs), Alistair Murdoch (New South Wales), Rory Underwood (Leicester), Tony Yapp (Worcester). Out: Darren Edwards (London Welsh), Richard White (Nottingham).
1997 position: 4th 1998 prediction: 2nd.

Blackheath

The possibility of becoming a nursery, of sorts, for Auckland Blues, to cement the already strong New Zealand links at one of the world's oldest clubs, must be enticing. Should know by October whether the Super 12 champions will invest as part of their desire to become a genuine all-year-round rugby operation. If so, prospects will improve; otherwise a difficult season lies ahead.

Director of rugby: Hika Reid Coaches: Phil Ubee, Mike Mills Captain: John Gallagher
TRANSFERS: In: Richard Sharples (Harlequins) Out: Michael Friday (Wasps), Sam Howard (Exeter) Micky Harris (Westcombe Park), Andy Park (North of Ireland FC), Steve Timmins (Nottingham), Dominic Walton (Wasps).
1997 position: 10th. 1998 prediction: 10th.

Coventry

The departure of Danny Grewcock to Saracens is a loss, but received England Under-21 lock, Danny Zaltzmann, in part exchange. Otherwise have retained bulk of last season's squad. Not much money to play with, but have recruited Ralph Knibbs as backs' coach to help former Bristol colleague, Derek Eves, who worked wonders last year in building a side of rich promise. Lost in the play-offs to London Irish after season of real progress, but will be thereabouts again.

Director of rugby: Derek Eves. Captain: Rob Hardwick.
TRANSFERS: In: Warwick Bullock (Gloucester), Danny Zaltzmann (Saracens) Out: Steve Chapman (Birmingham/Solihull), Mark Crane (Worcester), Danny Grewcock (Saracens), Julian Hyde (Birmingham/Solihull), Nick Lewis (Lichfield), Ben Shepherd (Birmingham/Solihull), Gareth Tregilgas (Old Leamingtonians).
1997 position: 3rd. 1998 prediction: 3rd

Exeter

Third-division champions who won their final 14 matches last year to secure promotion. Huge local spirit at the club, which is, by necessity, run on a shoestring. Unwilling and unable to go professional, which is likely to prove their undoing. Has been a haven for players wanting to combine business careers with part-time rugby. Strong pack but daunting task lies ahead.

Rugby manager: Roy Henderson. Coach: Paul Westgate. Captain: Rob Baxter
TRANSFERS: In: James Alvis (Newport), Craig Barrow (Bristol) Sam Howard (Blackheath), Matt McLoughlin (Mashonaland, Zimbabwe) Out: Keith Brooking (Wakefield), Andy Dart (Moseley), Iain Dixon (retd)
1997 position: Third division champions. 1998 prediction: 11th

Fylde

Runners-up to Exeter last year, Bill Beaumont's old club — he is still a member — will learn the harsh realities of life this campaign. Threadbare squad with long, hard winter in prospect.

Director of coaching: Graham Smith Captain: Gareth Russell Rugby manager: Andrew Macfarlane
TRANSFERS: In: Damian Ange (Oldham RL), Ian Bird (Vale of Lune); Karl Cumbier (Western Province), Liam McCormack (Army), Martin Scott (Orrell), Dave Topping (Waterloo). Out: Sam Knight (Otley)
1997 position: Third division runners-up. 1998 prediction: 12th

London Scottish

On the verge of the big time after heavy investment on and off the pitch. Dual Scotland/South Africa international John Allan arrives as player-coach from Natal. With a good start and former New Zealand triallist Jamie Cameron at fly half, this could be their year.

Director of rugby: John Steele Coaches: John Allan, Bob Godfrey Club captain: Paul Burnell First XV captain: Ronnie Eriksson
TRANSFERS: In: John Allan (Natal), Jamie Cameron (Wellington Hurricanes), Steve Cook (Orrell), Rhodri Davies (Harlequins), Ian McClausland (Eastern Suburbs), Russell Osman (Newbury), Simon Owen (Harlequins), Conan Sharmen (Natal), Mick Watson (Harlequins) Out: Angus Turner (Newbury), Steve Griffiths (Leeds), Jamie Hamilton (Leicester).
1997 position: 5th. 1998 prediction: 1st.

Moseley

With a consortium headed by Doug Ellis, the Aston Villa chairman, backing them, Moseley, with 25 full-time professionals, have high hopes of carrying on where they left off at the end of last season. Fortunes transformed by arrival of Allan Lewis as coach earlier this year in place of Barrie Corless. John Liley, Steve Hackney and Bill Drake-Lee have arrived after the clearout at Leicester. Will take time to blend.

Director of coaching: Allan Lewis. Coach: Denley Isaacs. Captain: Richard Denhardt
TRANSFERS: In: Peter Buxton (Cheltenham), Joe Clarke (Bath), John Colderly (Newport), Andy Dart (Exeter), Bill Drake-Lee (Leicester), Steve Hackney (Leicester), Will James (Bath), John Liley (Leicester), Peter Massey (Wakefield), Mark McAtamney (Canterbury), Charlie Mulraine (Gloucester)
1997 position: 8th 1998 prediction: 5th.

Orrell

Bowed to the inevitable last season when relegated. Lost several more talented personnel during the summer, but the return of Ged Glynn as coach has helped to lift the gloom at Edgehall Road, as has the recruitment of Ben Cronin, the Ireland international, and his compatriot, Brian Walsh.

Director of coaching: Ged Glynn Captain: tba.
TRANSFERS: In: Ben Cronin (Garryowen), Ben Gilford (New Zealand Police), Paul Manley (Wakefield), Peter Milchip (Lymm), Neil Ryan (Sale), Doug Trivella (Zimbabwe), Simon Verbickas (Sale), Brian Walsh (Cork Constitution), Mark Warr (Sale), Darren Wright (Sale). Out: Peter Anglesea (Bedford), Alex Bennett (Saracens), Steve Cook (London Scottish), Rob Hitchmough (Harlequins), Jim Naylor (Newcastle), Michael Worsley (Bristol)
1997 position: relegated from first division. 1998 prediction: 7th

Rotherham

Defied the odds by actually making a profit last year as well as the critics who predicted an instant return to the third division. Very much part of the community and has backing of local businesses. Young side, especially up front where they could be exposed. Coached by Geoff Wappett, who led England Under-18 group to such success in Australia recently. Consolidation the target.

Rugby manager: Steve Cousins Coaches: Geoff Wappett, Alan Buzza. Captain: tba.
TRANSFERS: In: Greg Austin (Leicester), John Shepherd (Morley), Ben Wade (Morley)
1997 position: 7th. 1998 prediction: 9th.

Wakefield

Hoping to build on creditable mid-table position last season and the arrival of Matt Greenwood as player/coach from Wasps, who leads by example, will be a real boon. Well-run club with no real money worries and huge potential.

Coach: Matt Greenwood Captain: Paul Stewart
TRANSFERS: In: Keith Brooking (Exeter), Alan Brown (Stockton), Matt Greenwood (Wasps), Craig Lee (Stockton), Ian McLennan (Newcastle), Alan Yates (Sale) Out: Paul Manley (Orrell), Peter Massey (Moseley), Ian Wynn (Leeds)
1997 position: 6th. 1998 prediction: 6th.

Waterloo

With Tony Russ calling the shots, Waterloo should enjoy a better season. Fitter than ever and Russ gradually changing style of play. Good spirit and no superstars, but lack experience in the forwards. Young side that will have to learn quickly but no inhibitions, which could work in their favour.

Director of rugby: Tony Russ. Captain: David Blyth
TRANSFERS: In: Phil Graham (Liverpool) Peter Hart (Gloucester), Marcus Hough (Chester), Sean Kay (Wirral), Russell Kirby (Rugby), Mark O'Shaughnessy (Waikato Chiefs), Cen Thomas (Dunvant) Out: Nick Allott (retd), Peter Buckton (retd), Bart Pilecki (Australia).
1997 position: 9th 1998 prediction: 8th

West Hartlepool

In freefall after relegation and haemorrhage of talent, a trend that continued over the summer. Will need all motivational powers of former All Black Mike Brewer, in charge after disastrous Mark Ring reign. Little money to spend but sponsor Phil Youell back on board. New-look squad could click with a promising threequarter line. Will be difficult to beat at home.

Director of rugby: Mike Brewer Coaches: Dave Stubbs, Colin White Captain: David Mitchell
TRANSFERS: In: Mike Brewer (Blackrock), Emmet Farrell (Blackrock), Tu Nu'ualiitia (Western Samoa), Russell Schroder (Petone, New Zealand), Stephen Vile (Castres) Out: David Barnes (Newcastle), Gerald Cordle (Penzance/Newlyn), Russell Earnshaw (Bath), Chris John (Newport) Kevin Moseley (Penzance/Newlyn), Chris Murphy (Sale), Mark Ring (Penzance/Newlyn), Matt Silva (Cardiff), John Stabler (Redcar)
1997 POSITION: relegated from first division. 1998 prediction: 4th

☐ *Compiled by Mark Souster*

Ambitious Wasps hoping to cash in on higher profile

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

WASPS and Leicester, league and cup-winners respectively last season, make their belated entry to the Allied Dunbar Premiership today, but whether it will be with a roar remains to be seen. They stood on the sidelines last weekend as the first division, for the most part, fumbled into action, but with Europe looming, England's premier clubs need to drop straight into an efficient groove.

It has been a good year for Wasps. Though the league title earned them only some £15,000 in the final year of Courage sponsorship, their commercial profile has soared, assisted by the fact that, during the summer, the British Isles kept rugby firmly in the spotlight. Should they retain the title next May, they will take prize-money of £60,000 plus their share from the general sponsorship fund.

"At this stage last season, because we signed our contract with Chris Wright's company so late, we had sold only four hospitality boxes for the season," Jeff Huckstep, the club's chief executive, said. "We have already sold 22 out of 25 and commercially there has been enormous interest." Season-ticket sales have trebled and Wasps can contemplate a doubling of membership to around 2,000.

For the opening of their defence, however, they must leave London for the Memorial Ground, where Bristol still hope that a business consortium will give them a degree of the prosperity that now attaches to their visitors. Tactfully, it might be said, Wasps have not rubbed salt into Bristol's wounds by bringing Simon Shaw, the England lock, with them. Shaw, who left Bristol in mid-summer, needs match fitness after suffering back spasms and plays for the second XV.

While Bristol have lost Kevin Maggs, their Ireland-qualified centre, with damaged ankle ligaments, the champions can afford to leave Gareth Rees and Chris Sheasby, internationals both, among the replacements and award the goalkicking duties to Jon Ufton. Rees, the Canada full back, was the leading points-scorer in the first division last season, but Wasps have the luxury of three kickers — Rees, Ufton and Alex King — from whom to choose.

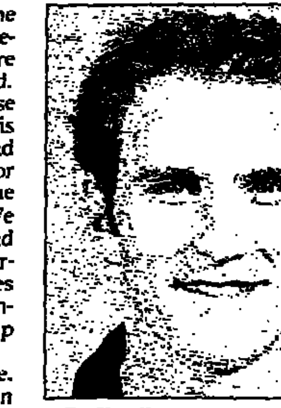
"Last season we were able to go about our business quietly, but we understand that everyone will want to beat us. We're there to be shot at," Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps captain, said. "But every game in the Premiership will be hugely competitive. The general standard of play will go up and I believe the promoted teams [Richmond and Newcastle] will cause some major upsets."

One of them already has. Newcastle disposed of Bath a week ago and that alone will pull more spectators into Kingston Park tomorrow, when Northampton come calling. Andy Blyth, the England A centre who played for Newcastle last season, is in the Northampton squad, but Tim Rodber will be absent after tweaking a hamstring in the defeat by Harlequins.

It is the contention of Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, that his team was 20 points better than Harlequins but could not kick their goals. To that end, David Alred, the kicking coach, will work regularly not only with Gregor Townsend and Paul Grayson but also with Matthew Dawson, the scrum-half who showed such skill and application in that department in training with the Lions in South Africa.

Mike Catt has been forced by a groin strain to pull out of Bath's game at the Stoop Memorial Ground — his place at fly half goes to Richard Butland — but Jon Sleightholme, Jon Callard and Dan Lyle reinforce Bath against a similarly cosmopolitan Harlequins XV, in which Thierry Lacroix moves to centre to cover the absence of the injured Will Carling.

Leicester's belated entry against Gloucester at Welford Road features 11 internationals from five countries, with one of the few uncapped players, Michael Horak, from South Africa, at full back. Horak, Waisale Serevi — on the wing — and the flanker, Martin Corry, late of Bristol, make their competitive debuts for Leicester against unchanged opponents.



Dallaglio: expects problems

Television deal on offer

TELEVISION highlights of domestic club rugby and the knockout cup in England are expected to be shown on either ITV or Channel 5 in a new programme, provisionally called *Rugby Express* (Mark Souster writes).

Terrestrial rights to the Allied Dunbar Premiership have been bought by Chrysalis, who produced *Rugby Special* for the BBC. They have paid a reported £150,000 and are understood to be seeking sponsorship of £800,000 to cover production costs for the 32-hour series.

Chrysalis hope to secure a deal with ITV, which has been given first refusal and has the secondary rights to England's home internationals and to Heineken Cup matches in England. However, it is arguable whether there would be sufficient support from the various regions to justify the airtime for what is considered a niche programme. That leaves Channel 5, which is believed to have guaranteed a Sunday slot, as the most likely broadcaster, provided Chrysalis secures the necessary sponsorship.

Any programme would not start until October after the pool matches in the Heineken Cup.

HOCKEY

Mathews in sharp form for England

ENGLAND had to work hard for a 4-2 victory against Ireland when the four-nations under-21 tournament began at Milton Keynes yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes).

David Mathews gave England an encouraging start with a goal from a short corner in the fourth minute.

The teams were on level terms in the eighteenth minute when Jackson converted a penalty stroke, the outcome of a stick tackle inside the circle. A goal in the fiftieth minute by Boyse provided relief for England, who scored again five minutes later when Pearn capitalised on a defensive lapse.

Another goal by Mathews from a short corner in the 63rd minute increased England's lead. Kershaw, a substitute forward, scored for Ireland in the dying seconds.

Earlier, Germany, the Junior World Cup holders, overran Belgium 6-1.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

ARSENAL
v
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Today, 3.0

Oliver Holt

The wags are saying that at their present rate of scoring, Dennis Bergkamp may beat Ian Wright to Cliff Bastin's club record but there are no prizes for guessing who will be at the centre of attention in North London today when these teams meet at Highbury.

The record is one thing, and only a fool would bet against Wright, with his sense of melodrama and occasion, snatching the two goals that he needs to surpass Bastin's record against Arsenal's fiercest rivals. But after the postmatch fracas at Filbert Street, Wright will be the focus of heightened interest for the wrong reasons again at Highbury.

He dominated the thoughts of the England manager, Glenn Hoddle, yesterday and is bound to get a rapturous reception from the home fans. The Spurs supporters and possibly some of their players, though, may feel it is a fine time to try to unsettle him.

If they do not succeed, an Arsenal team with Wright and Bergkamp functioning at the top of their form should be too much for Gerry Francis's side, who are still finding their feet and adjusting to the signings of Les Ferdinand, David Ginola and José Dominguez.

Bergkamp has been irresistible in all Arsenal's games this season, a model of creativity and of devastating finishing, and with Marc Overmars gradually finding the confidence to run at full backs and destroy them with his pace and Patrick Vieira, another of the Filbert Street miscreants, raiding from midfield, Arsène Wenger's team are likely to rip through Tottenham's shaky back line.

That might be strengthened by the addition of Sol Campbell, who will have a late fitness test today on the injured knee that he damaged against West Ham United two weeks ago. The test will decide not only whether he starts the game but also whether he is retained in the England squad. If he fails it, Gary Mabbutt may return to the starting line-up.

Ramon Vega is still out, though, and Colin Calderwood misses the game through suspension, absences that should seal Tottenham's fate.

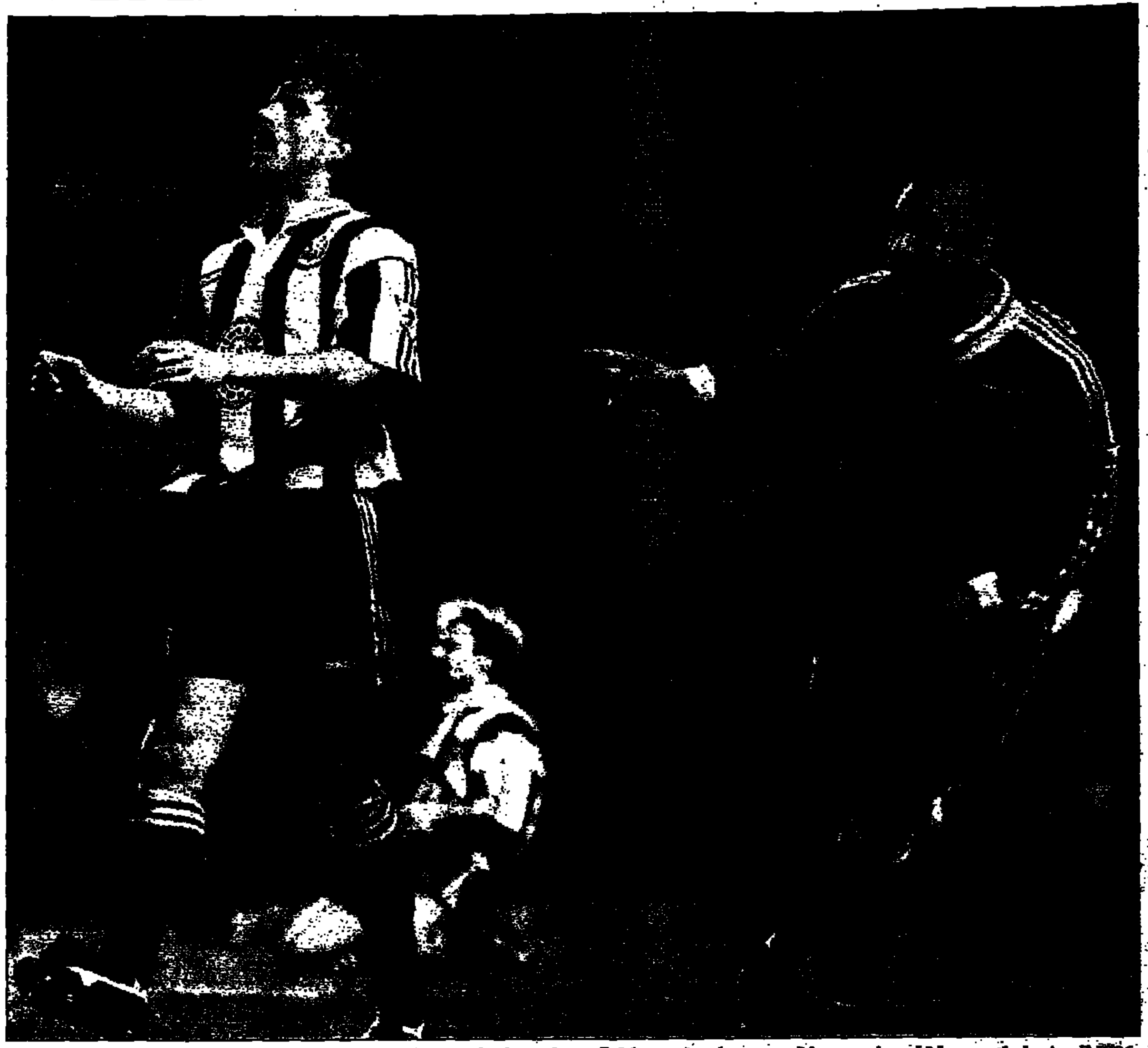
In attack, Dominguez, the Portuguese who made such a big impression on his debut against Derby County, will also have a late fitness test but David Ginola is ruled out by injury, which may mean another chance for Ruel Fox, who scored Tottenham's winner against Aston Villa on Wednesday.

ARSENAL (probable; 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, S Bould, G Grimandi, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — I Wright, D Bergkamp

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable: 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, J Scales, S Campbell, J Edinburgh — J Dominguez, S Clemence, D Howells, A Sinton — L Ferdinand, S Iversen.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Arsenal to win by two goals.



Stan-tastic: Collymore scores the winning goal to settle the epic Anfield meeting between Liverpool and Newcastle in April 1996

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

HITS OF THE NINETIES

April 3 1996, Liverpool 4 Newcastle 3 — they called it the match of the decade. Well, maybe it was, but here are 11 other contenders for the title.

1. Liverpool 4 Newcastle 3. March 1997
(It couldn't happen again, could it? It could, it did)

2. C Palace 4 Liverpool 3. April 1990
(Palace heading for Wembley — "there's only one Alan Pardew")

3. Chesterfield 3 Middlesbrough 3. April 1997
(The Spireites beaten in the Cup semi-final — and, yes it was over the line)

4. Leicester 3 Swindon 4. May 1993
(Leicester fight back from 3-0 down, only to lose to a dodgy penalty)

5. Chelsea 4 Liverpool 2. January 1997
(Chelsea fight back from 2-0 down and the legend of the Spice Boys is born)

6. Liverpool 3 Man Utd 3. January 1994
(United 3-0 up in half an hour. Liverpool saved . . . by Nigel Clough)

8. Everton 4 Liverpool 4. February 1991
(Everton led four times and the quality of Mersey was too much of a strain for Kenny Dalglish — he resigned two days later)

9. Villa 1 Internazionale 0. September 1994
(The best performance by a British side in Europe since the ban was lifted? It didn't save Ron Atkinson's job six weeks later)

10. Southampton 2 Spurs 6. March 1995
(Spurs were 2-0 down, Rocket Ronny Rosenthal came off the bench to score a hat-trick)

11. Reading 3 Bolton 4. May 1995
(Reading were 2-0 up when they missed a penalty and, with it, a place in the Premiership)

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

ASTON VILLA
v
LEEDS UNITED
Today, 3.0

Richard Hobson

Brian Little has managed to retain a sense of humour this week, even if it is of the gallows variety. Asked whether he knew that defeat at Tottenham would complete the worst start in Villa's history, he said that the chairman had already pointed it out. Lest there be any doubt, Little quickly stressed that he was joking. Twice.

What price the first vote of confidence for a Premiership manager if Villa lose for a fifth time against Leeds United this afternoon? "Deadly" Doug Ellis has long contended that his reputation for intolerance of managers is unfounded, but Little will doubtless have his own thoughts.

Yorke and Collymore each scored for the first time at White Hart Lane. More goals will surely follow from both. Of far more concern is the defence. Over the past two seasons only Arsenal have conceded fewer goals; this time the Villa rearguard is as porous as a pair of fishnet tights.

"We are aware of how quickly we need to get out of this position," Little said, after the sale of Andy Townsend to Middlesbrough, which could finally mean an extended opportunity for Paul Grayson. "The way to do that is by staying together and working hard," Little said. "When the boys look for reasons to explain why things are not going right they do not always get the right ones. They need somebody to tell them, and that is where they need me."

Leeds have picked up just a single point from three home games but beat Sheffield Wednesday on their only outing from Elland Road. George Graham, the manager, believes that some of his foreign players, namely Hasselbaink and Ribeiro, are still coming to terms with the big crowds at Elland Road. It will be no smaller at Villa Park this afternoon.

The only fitness doubt concerns Robert Molenaar, the Holland defender, affectionately known as "The Terminator". David Wetherall stands by.

ASTON VILLA (probable: 3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, R Scimeca — G Charles, I Taylor, M Draper, S Grayson, S Staunton — D Yorke, S Collymore

LEEDS UNITED (probable, 4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, L Radebe, R Molenaar, D Robertson — G Kelly, D Hopkin, A I Haaland, B Ribeiro — J F Hasselbaink, R Wallace

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Villa to open their account with a point.

CHELSEA
v
SOUTHAMPTON
Today, 3.0

Brian Glanville

Chelsea's embarrassment of riches is now becoming an embarrassment to opponents. Now even Ruud Gullit, the player-manager, wants to get in on the act: back on the field, rather than in the dug-out.

After a dreadful start at Coventry, Chelsea have humiliated Barnsley and brushed Wimbledon aside. The triumphant return of Gianluca Vialli must have pleased his team-mates as much as himself. Four goals at Oakwell at last brought this majestic player out of the shadows.

With Gianfranco Zola, Tor Andre Flo and Mark Hughes all available as strikers, Gullit can afford to pick and choose, as he says he will, from game to game. Another fine goal from Di Matteo at Wimbledon and a second in two games from Petrescu confirms that Chelsea's strike power is not confined to the front line.

The welcome return of the gifted young Duberry has strengthened the defence and Leboeuf is also back in the squad after missing the game at Selhurst Park with a stomach upset.

Against this panoply of talent, Southampton will do well to survive. They hope that injuries to Ostenstad and Oakley will heal in time, but Magilton will play after an injection in a painful foot.

CHELSEA (probable: 4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, M Duberry, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, R di Matteo, D Wise, G Poyet — G Zola, G Vialli

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, F Benali, L Todd — D Hughes, J Magilton, N Maddison, D Spedding. — K Davies, S Johannsen.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Chelsea to win 3-0.

DERBY COUNTY
v
BARNSLEY
Today, 3.0

Keith Pike

Jim Smith has been around football management long enough to know the value of patience, but even he was beginning to sound a little dispirited as he contemplated a season that has yet to provide Derby County with their first goal, their first point or even their first completed match at Pride Park.

The floodlight failure that short-circuited their match against Wimbledon was "a disaster", Smith said (Derby were winning 2-1 at the time), complicating as it did a stop-start programme, and 1-0 defeats against Blackburn Rovers and Tottenham Hotspur revealed that his team "lacked a cutting edge". With Barnsley still finding their Premiership feet, it would be easy to predict a dour, nervy match — a proverbial six-pointer with August not yet out.

That, though, is not necessarily the case. Barnsley, whether being overrun by Chelsea or beating Crystal Palace and Bolton Wanderers, have played with refreshing abandon.

As for Smith, he can at last begin to relish the prospect of fielding his first-choice team, with Sturridge, the top goalscorer last season, Asanovic, the highly influential playmaker, and Baiano, the £1.5 million recruit from Serie A, all on the mend.

DERBY COUNTY (possible; 3-5-2): M Poom — J Laursen, I Stimac, C Dailly — S Eranio, R van der Laan, A Asanovic, L Carsley, C Powell — A Ward, F Baiano.

BARNSLEY (possible; 3-5-2): L Leese — A Moses, M Appleby, A de Zeeuw — N Eaden, N Redfearn, E Tinkler, C Marcelle, D Barnard — G Hristov, J Hendrie.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Derby, off the mark.

MANCHESTER UNITED
v
COVENTRY CITY
Today, 3.0

David Maddock

Deciding just who to drop for Andy Cole, is, suggests Alex Ferguson, a horrible decision to make. There is no man, however, better equipped to make it, and he will do it with conviction. "It is obvious why I have to pick Cole with the European games imminent, and the others will understand," he said with his usual insistence. Scholes is the obvious candidate, but Teddy Sheringham may be a surprise choice to feel an unfamiliar tap on the shoulder.

United have made an ominous start to the season and Ferguson is keen to get as many points in the bag as possible before the Champions' League kicks off, so Coventry beware. Their record at Old Trafford does not bode well either, just two draws in the 13 most recent visits, but they do have the inspiration of Gordon Strachan behind them.

As a player under Ferguson, he did not, we shall say delicately, always see eye to eye with his manager, and one suspects victory for him today would taste sweet. Coventry are worried about the fitness of Gary McAllister, who was one of only three players in the Premiership to play every minute of every game last season. Now, isn't life strange.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable: 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, G Pallister, H Berg, P Neville — D Beckham, N Butt, R Keane, R Giggs — P Scholes, A Cole.

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): S Ogrizovic — P Williams, G Breen, R Shaw — J Salako, P Telfer, G McAllister, T E Soltvedt, K Lightbourne — D Dublin, D Huckerby

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: United to huff and puff before blowing the Coventry house down.

WEST HAM UNITED
v
WIMBLEDON
Today, 3.0

Russell Kempson

Strikers hunt in pairs, so it is said, with John Hartson and Paul Kitson having struck up a fruitful partnership since they were brought together at Upton Park towards the end of last season. So close is their affinity that Hartson was almost delighted to miss a chance against Coventry City on Wednesday, when his header hit the crossbar and allowed Kitson to nod in the rebound.

"I'm glad Paul scored rather than me," Hartson said. "He hadn't got a goal this season and I know what that's like. It can be really tough." Hartson, sweet boy that he is, and Kitson, his grateful sidekick, should team up again when Wimbledon visit the East End this afternoon, keeping Iain Dowie on the bench. Most eyes, though, will be on Rio Ferdinand, Glenn Hoddle's latest recruit to the England squad. Is the young West Ham defender really as cool and cultured as the pundits suggest? Is he really ready to roll over Moldova?

Wimbledon have made another sluggish start but at least it is better than last season, when they lost their first three matches. They then embarked on an unbeaten run of 14 league matches, made up of ten victories and four draws. West Ham should beware. Hell hath no fury like a wounded Don.

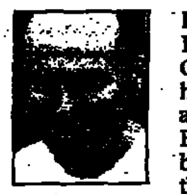
WEST HAM UNITED (probable, 4-4-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, M Rieper, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — J Moncur, S Lomas, E Berkovic, S Lazaridis — P Kitson, J Hartson.

WIMBLEDON (possible; 3-4-3): N Sullivan — C Perry, D Blackwell, B McAllister — N Ardley, K Cunningham, R Earle, A Kimble — D Holdsworth, E Ekoku, M Gayle

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Dour draw.

CRYSTAL PALACE
v
BLACKBURN ROVERS
Today, 3.0



Peter Robinson

Channel 4 has a lot to answer for. For years, it broadcast the best of Italian football for an audience that believed that it, like Serie A, was an elite, an initiated few that understood what *catenaccio* was and could pronounce names like Bortolazzi and Tagliatella without sounding like a punter trying to order a plate of spag bol. It could not last; managers and chairmen began to mutter: "They look good, I want one." And so it came to pass.

Last season was just the beginning, Vialli and company merely an advance party. Last week, for example, Messrs Di Canio and Carbone were at Selhurst Park and this week Attilio Lombardo is back — plucked from the fringes of Juventus to star for Crystal Palace on their return to the Premiership.

Today represents perhaps his first true test, for Blackburn are running free at the top of the league with an Italian influence of their own. True, Roy Hodgson, their manager, is a Croydon man, born and bred, and today represents a homecoming for him, but he arrived in Lancashire from Internazionale. He will know all about Lombardo and is unlikely to let him dictate matters, as Leeds United and Everton did recently.

Hodgson will change things today, if only because Filan, the goalkeeper, has a broken arm, sustained on Monday in the 7-2 thrashing of Sheffield Wednesday, and McKinlay is doubtful with a groin strain. Flowers, himself back after injury, should thus return in goal and Bohinen may start in midfield. Wilcox is expected to play, despite sore ribs. Warhurst will lead the Palace attack against his former club in a team unchanged from that which lost 1-0 away to Southampton in midweek.

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable: 3-5-2): K Miller — D Tuttle, M Edworthy, A Linighan — K Muscat, A Roberts, S Rodger, A Lombardo, D Gordon — P Warhurst, B Dyer.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable; 4-4-2): T Flowers — P Valery, S Henchoz, C Hendry, J Kenna — S Ripley, G Flitcroft, L Bohinen, J Wilcox — C Sutton, K Gallacher.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Blackburn to prove too good.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
v
LEICESTER CITY
Today, 3.0

Mark Hodkinson

The celebrated Sheffield Wednesday band has promised some new numbers in its repertoire this season. The theme from *The Great Escape* and *Bring Me Sunshine* have already been aired, but *Don't Look Back in Anger* might be more appropriate today.

Both clubs have this week been involved in what are euphemistically known as ugly incidents. Carbone, the Wednesday midfield player, was sent off for an attempted head butt on Kevin Gallacher in the 7-2 defeat away to Blackburn, while Walsh, the Leicester City captain, has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association for offering on-the-spot counselling to Ian Wright, of Arsenal.

David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, has admonished Carbone and told him that he "can't behave like this in England." Supporters are hoping that Pleat will also warn the little Italian about his offensive fluorescent green boots. Wednesday were 5-1 down in 23 minutes at Ewood Park, so it is no surprise that Pleat has called for "11 fit, brave men" to restore some kind of normality.

Wednesday fans, by the way, believe poor Iain Dowie, of West Ham United is the least handsome player in the FA Carling Premiership. In second place, according to the fanzine, *Spitting Feathers*, is Gianfranco Zola, of Chelsea, with Robbie Fowler, Martin Keown and, with a certain inevitability, Peter Beardsley, in joint third place.

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, is determined to maintain his team's solid early season form, though the Uefa Cup draw, against Atlético Madrid, has obviously created much more excitement than a day trip to Hillsborough.

Wednesday will be without Booth, who has just had a knee operation, and Pembridge, who has a calf injury. Walker will have a fitness test before start to see if he has shaken off a chest virus.

Leicester have a full squad available with Marshall back in contention. Claridge will join the other players late, after spending time with his father, who is unwell.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable; 4-4-2) K Pressman — P Blondeau, J Newsome, D Walker, I Nolan — G Whittingham, G Hyde, P Atherton, P di Canio — D Hirst, B Carbone.

LEICESTER CITY (probable; 3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, S Walsh — P Kaamark, M Izzet, N Lennon, R Savage, S Guppy — S Claridge, E Heskey.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Low-scoring draw.

LIVERPOOL
v
NEWCASTLE UNITED
Tomorrow, 4.0

Oliver Holt

Some might say this is Liverpool versus Liverpool Old Boys, after Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager, snapped up John Barnes and Ian Rush, his old playing partners, on free transfers from Anfield and Elland Road respectively within the past fortnight. Both signings were seen in some quarters as indications of desperation on Dalglish's part, but he is a shrewder man than that. Neither are likely to start the game tomorrow, but Rush, in particular, has already shown that he can provide valuable cover for Asprilla when he is called upon.

This clash has a lot to live up to, coming on the back of the teams' previous meetings here, two thrillers that both ended in 4-3 victories for Liverpool. It is hard to see that happening again, but both teams are coming into form and it should be a high-quality game.

Liverpool, still likely to be without Fowler and Leonhardsen, should start with the same line-up that played so well away to Leeds United last Tuesday. McManaman, left out of the England squad to play Moldova, had his best game of the season so far there and will run out in front of the Sky Sports cameras with a point to prove.

With an attack boasting Riedle, who opened his Premiership account at Leeds and will be brimming with confidence, and Owen, desperate to continue to impress as Fowler grows nearer to fitness, the Newcastle defence is likely to have its work cut out. Nevertheless, although Pearce will miss the match because of the injury that he picked up in midweek, Dalglish's team will be on a high of its own after its fine, two-leg victory over Croatia Zagreb that was capped with the draw in Zagreb on Wednesday night. Asprilla seems to be revelling in the responsibility he has been given on his own in attack after the injury to Shearer, and Tomasson, behind him, is gradually adjusting to the pace of the Premiership.

The game may hinge on the clash between Ince and Batty in the heart of midfield. Ince's excellence and home advantage might just sway it Liverpool's way.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — M Wright, B T Kvarme, S Harkness — R Jones, S McManaman, P Ince, M Thomas, S I Bjornebye — M Owen, K Riedle.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-1-1): S Given — S Howey, P Albert, A Pistone — S Watson, D Batty, R Lee, T Ketsbaia, J Beresford — J D Tomasson — F Asprilla.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, 4.0.

■ PREDICTION: Liverpool to win by one goal.

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

England rejection fires resolve to work even harder

When I checked my telephone messages on Thursday and heard the voice of Glenn Hoddle, I feared the worst. *Sure enough, the manager* rang to explain to me that I would not be part of the England squad to face *Moldova in the* World Cup.

It was kind of him to do that, because I had not been in the squad during the summer through injury, and therefore he had no obligation to ring me. I appreciate that he took the trouble to let me know early, because learning from Ceefax that you are not selected is *not particularly pleasant.*

Glenn explained to me that the players who had come in during the summer had done well and that he wanted to try a few different things for this match, but he also stressed that, if I kept playing as I had done against Leeds United this week, I would soon be back in the squad. My instant reaction was one of huge disappointment. Like every kid kicking a ball around the street, I used to dream that I was in an England shirt, playing at Wembley. I want to play for my country. *I am desperate to play for my* country and not to be part of it is a terrible, empty feeling.

Yet I have no complaints with the manager. I understand his reasoning. During the summer, *Glenn told me* he had absolutely no problem with the fact that I was forced to withdraw from the squad *through injury. He said that he* realised the injury was serious and had needed attention for some time. *He also carefully explained* that he had to be fair to the players who had come in. If they performed well — as they did, very well — then they were the players who would be in the squad for Moldova. I watched back home our brilliant performances in Le Tournoi de France and I was very impressed.

Add to that the fact that it had been a very difficult start to the season for me and I did not expect to be in the squad. Things, *though*, are looking up. Liverpool played very well at Leeds and I am *beginning to feel relaxed and on* top of my game. I accept England selection is about performances *and no one can expect to be picked* without first proving their worth. That is now my single-minded aim, because I *want to pull on that* white jersey again.

Final analysis

After the game at Blackburn Rovers last Saturday, I sat down with a video *recording* of the match and analysed my performance. In particular, I looked closely at the chance I missed during an important stage of the match. *It was a good chance and I* know I should have taken it. It was an important stage of the game *and a goal then would probably* have given us a win. Looking at it again, I accept it may well have *been a lazy chip, it may have been* too casual, too confident, perhaps a poor finish. It may well have been all *those things*, but it was a good save by John Filan as well.

That's not an excuse, far from it, *it is just a positive interpretation.* People have asked me what I did in the days between the miss at Blackburn and the goal I scored at Leeds and the answer is I merely *maintained my belief in myself.*

I work hard on my finishing because I know how important to *my game it is to improve in that* area. I stay behind after training with Robbie Fowler and work with *him on all aspects of the job.* But it is not as simple as that, because training is a false situation. *You can score every time in training,* but it doesn't really prepare you for a match. There is only so much shooting you can do on the practice range, only so much work you can get out of it. What clearly is even more important is that you *get your mental approach right.*

Every forward has told me that they miss more than they score, *but the art of goalscoring is to keep* getting in there in dangerous positions and to keep hitting the target. In essence, *the hardest part* of all is to keep the mind tuned.

Classic prospect

It is Newcastle United at Anfield again tomorrow and everyone is expecting *another* classic. I don't think they will be disappointed because, if anything, this match has a more attractive appearance than last season's 4-3. That was not a classic match. It was a game we *should have* won 3-0, *but almost* threw away. This time, Newcastle are unbeaten and come off the back of a very *good result in* Europe. They also bring a different attitude to Anfield than most other *sides, because they come looking* for victory, not to stop us from playing. That is why this game tends to be an exciting one.

There is also the return of John Barnes and Ian Rush to add even more spice. I'm sure our fans will give them both a great reception because they were both wonderful servants to our club and, don't forget, are still great players.

I was sad to see John Barnes leave Anfield a few weeks ago. To me, he is a brilliant player and I look up to him. In training, he was *still head and shoulders above* everyone else and all the players still rate him very highly.

However, *he said* the circumstances were right for a change and good luck to him. I hope they both do well against Newcastle, *but not for us. In fact,* I am rather hoping they don't play tomorrow, because it would be awful if they *came back and scored.*

I suppose it would be all right if it ends up at 4-3 again, providing *we score the four,* but I would much rather that we took hold of the match as we did last year and *then kept our grip on it. Anyway,* it is impossible that we could get a 4-3 scoreline again . . . isn't it?

Celtic quest

We meet Celtic in the first round of *the Uefa Cup, a tie that is, shall we* say, interesting. There will be massive enthusiasm for the game *among the two sets of supporters* and I'm sure the whole British thing will be revved up once more. It will be an intense, difficult game for Liverpool. I know Celtic have not had the best of starts, *but I feel* certain that the atmosphere will be like that at a derby match and so the form book will go out of the window. We played them a couple of years ago and drew 0-0 up there in a pre-season game, so at least we know what to expect.

STEVE MCMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	Played	Points	Goal diff	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Last 10 matches W-D-L	Current streak
1. BLACKBURN ROVERS (1)	4	10	+10	2	1	0	9	3	1	0	0	4	0	3-1-0	W1
2. MANCHESTER UTD (2)	4	10	+5	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	4	0	3-1-0	W1
3. ARSENAL (6)	4	8	+4	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	7	5	2-2-0	D1
4. LEICESTER CITY (4)	4	8	+2	1	2	0	4	3	1	0	0	2	1	2-2-0	D2
5. WEST HAM UTD (3)	4	7	+1	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	2-1-1	D1
6. CHELSEA (13)	3	6	+7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	10	3	2-0-1	W2
7. NEWCASTLE UTD (7)	2	6	+2	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2-0-0	W2
8. CRYSTAL PALACE (9)	4	6	+1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	4	2	2-0-2	L1
9. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (19)	4	6	-3	2	0	1	4	4	0	0	1	1	2	2-0-2	W2
10. BARNSLEY (9)	4	6	-5	1	0	2	3	9	1	0	0	1	0	2-0-2	W1
11. LIVERPOOL (13)	4	5	+1	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	4	2	1-2-1	W1
12. COVENTRY CITY (11)	4	5	-1	1	2	0	6	5	0	0	1	0	2	1-2-1	D2
13. BOLTON WANDERERS (8)	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	4	1-1-1	L1
14. LEEDS UTD (5)	4	4	-2	0	1	2	1	5	1	0	0	3	1	1-1-2	L2
15. EVERTON (15)	3	3	-2	1	0	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	1-0-2	L1
16. SOUTHAMPTON (17)	4	3	-3	1	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	1	1-0-3	W1
17. WIMBLEDON (12)	3	2	-2	0	2	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0-2-1	L1
18. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (18)	4	1	-8	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	2	4	10	0-1-3	L1
19. DERBY COUNTY (16)	2	0	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0-0-2	L2
20. ASTON VILLA (20)	4	0	-7	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	3	2	5	0-0-4	L4

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Chelsea	10	3.33
2. Blackburn	13	3.25
3. Arsenal	9	2.25
4. Coventry	6	1.50
= Leicester	6	1.50
= Newcastle	3	1.50
= West Ham	6	1.50
8. Bolton	4	1.33
= Liverpool	5	1.25
= Manchester Utd	5	1.25
= Sheffield Wed	5	1.25
= Tottenham	5	1.25
13. Barnsley	4	1.00
= Crystal Palace	4	1.00
= Everton	3	1.00
= Leeds Utd	4	1.00
17. Aston Villa	2	0.50
= Southampton	2	0.50
= Wimbledon	2	0.50
20. Derby	0	0.00

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	0	0.00
2. Newcastle	1	0.50
3. Blackburn	3	0.75
= Crystal Palace	3	0.75
5. Chelsea	3	1.00
= Leicester	4	1.00
= Derby	2	1.00
= Liverpool	4	1.00
= Wimbledon	4	1.00
10. Arsenal	5	1.25
= Southampton	5	1.25
= West Ham	5	1.25
13. Bolton	4	1.33
14. Leeds Utd	6	1.50
= Tottenham	6	1.50
16. Everton	5	1.67
17. Coventry	7	1.75
18. Aston Villa	9	2.25
= Barnsley	9	2.25
20. Sheffield Wed	13	3.25

SCORERS

	Goals
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	5
Sutton (Blackburn)	5
Vialli (Chelsea)	4
Blake (Bolton)	3
Carbone (Sheff Wed)	3
Dublin (Coventry)	3
Ferdinand (Tottenham)	3
Wright (Arsenal)	3
Asprilla (Newcastle)	2
Beckham (Man Utd)	2
Elliott (Leicester)	2
Gallacher (Blackburn)	2
Hartson (West Ham)	2
Huckerby (Coventry)	2
Lombardo (C Palace)	2
Owen (Liverpool)	2
Petrescu (Chelsea)	2
Redfearn (Barnsley)	2
Wallace (Leeds)	2

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	4	5
Aston Villa	1	1
Barnsley	2	2
Blackburn	9	4
Bolton	2	2
Chelsea	4	6
Coventry	4	2
Crystal Palace	2	2
Derby	0	0
Everton	0	3
Leeds Utd	3	1
Leicester	2	4
Liverpool	1	4
Manchester Utd	1	4
Newcastle	2	1
Sheffield Wed	2	3
Southampton	1	1
Tottenham	2	3
West Ham	2	4
Wimbledon	1	1

OPENING RUNS

Successive wins/losses at start of season		
Arsenal	W8	L4
Aston Villa	W4	L4
Barnsley	W5	L6
Blackburn	W5	L3
Bolton	W7	L7
Chelsea	W6	L3
Coventry	W5	L9
Crystal Palace	W5	L5
Derby	W5	L4
Everton	W8	L6
Leeds Utd	W7	L3
Leicester	W3	L6
Liverpool	W8	L8
Manchester Utd	W10	L12
Newcastle	W11	L4
Sheffield Wed	W7	L4
Southampton	W3	L4
Tottenham	W11	L4
West Ham	W5	L3
Wimbledon	W0	L3

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Sheffield Wed	11	1
2. C Palace	12	0
3. *Arsenal*	11	0
4. Coventry	9	0
5. Bolton	7	0
= Chelsea	7	0
= Liverpool	7	0
= Tottenham	7	0
= Wimbledon	7	0
10. Blackburn	6	0
= Everton	6	0
= Leicester	6	0
= West Ham	6	0
14. Newcastle	4	1
15. Leeds Utd	5	0
= Manchester Utd	5	0
= Southampton	5	0
18. *Aston Villa*	4	0
= Derby	4	0
20. Barnsley	2	0

REFEREES

	P	Cards issued Yellow	Cards issued Red
1. *S Dunn*	1	7	0
2. P Durkin	2	13	0
3. G Willard	2	10	1
4. P Jones	2	11	0
= G Barber	2	11	0
6. M Bodenham	3	14	0
7. J Winter	3	11	1
8. P Alcock	1	4	0
9. N Barry	2	6	0
= U Rennie	2	6	0
= M Riley	2	6	0
12. G Poll	2	5	0
13 D Gallagher	3	8	0
= A Wilkie	3	8	0
15. *S Lodge*	3	6	0
16. K Burge	2	4	0
= D Elleray	2	4	0
18. G Ashby	0	0	0
= *M Reed*	0	0	0

HIGHEST WINS

League only	Home	Away
Arsenal	12-0	7-1
Aston Villa	12-2	6-0
Barnsley	9-0	9-0
Blackburn	9-0	8-2
Bolton	8-0	7-1
Chelsea	9-2	7-0
Coventry	9-0	7-0
Crystal Palace	9-0	6-0
Derby	9-0	8-0
Everton	9-1	7-0
Leeds Utd	8-0	6-1
Leicester	10-0	6-1
Liverpool	10-1	7-0
Manchester Utd	10-1	7-0
Newcastle	13-0	7-1
Sheffield Wed	9-1	6-0
Southampton	8-0	6-0
Tottenham	9-0	6-1
West Ham	8-0	6-0
Wimbledon	6-0	6-1

HEAVIEST LOSSES

League only	Home	Away
Arsenal	0-5	0-8
Aston Villa	0-7	0-7
Barnsley	0-6	0-9
Blackburn	1-7	0-8
Bolton	0-6	0-7
Chelsea	0-6	1-8
Coventry	1-6	2-10
Crystal Palace	1-6	0-9
Derby	1-7	0-8
Everton	0-6	0-7
Leeds Utd	0-5	1-8
Leicester	0-6	0-12
Liverpool	0-6	1-9
Manchester Utd	1-7	0-7
Newcastle	1-9	0-9
Sheffield Wed	1-7	0-10
Southampton	0-8	0-8
Tottenham	0-8	0-7
West Ham	2-8	0-7
Wimbledon	1-5	1-7

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites	
Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	—
Barnsley	—
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY

Kick-off 3.0 * denotes all-ticket

Pools coupon numbers in brackets

In Premiership fixtures † denotes sold out, otherwise seats still available

FA Carling Premiership

(1) † Arsenal v Tottenham
(2) Aston Villa v Leeds
(3) † Chelsea v Southampton
(4) Crystal Palace v Blackburn
(5) Derby v Barnsley
(6) † Manchester Utd v Coventry
(7) Sheffield Wednesday v Leicester
(8) West Ham v Wimbledon

Nationwide League
First division

(9) Charlton v Manchester City
(10) Huddersfield v Sheffield Utd
(11) * Ipswich v West Bromwich
(12) Nottingham Forest v QPR
(13) Portsmouth v Oxford Utd
(14) Reading v Bradford
(15) Stoke v Swindon
(16) Sunderland v Norwich
(17) Tranmere v Middlesbrough
(18) Wolverhampton v Bury

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm F	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
West Brom	3	3	0	0	6	3	9
Sheff Utd	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Swindon	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Bradford	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
* Birmingham	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Portsmth	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Charlton	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Tranmere	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
QPR	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Wolvrhmptn	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
Stoke	3	1	1	1	1	2	4
Oxford Utd	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Crewe	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Port Vale	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Sunderland	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Middlesbro	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Bury	3	0	3	0	1	1	3
Man City	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
* Stockport	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
Ipswich	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Huddersfld	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Reading	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
Norwich	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

** not including last night's match*

Second division

(19) Bournemouth v Blackpool
(20) Brentford v Grimsby
(21) Bristol City v Wigan
(22) Burnley v Bristol Rovers
(23) Carlisle v Northampton
(24) Luton v Oldham
(25) Plymouth v Chesterfield
(26) Preston v Watford
(27) Walsall v Southend
(28) Wycombe v Fulham
(29) York v Gillingham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Chesfrfld	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Bristol R	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Oldham	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Bournemth	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Fulham	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Gillingham	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Wigan	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
Wycombe	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Bristol City	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Preston	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Wrexham	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Southend	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Northmptn	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Luton	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Millwall	3	1	0	2	6	5	3
Plymouth	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
York	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Grimsby	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Blackpool	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Walsall	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Carlisle	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Brentford	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
Burnley	3	0	1	2	0	2	1

Third division

(30) Barnet v Chester
(—) Brighton v Leyton Orient
(31) Cambridge Utd v Shrewsbury
(32) Cardiff v Notts County
(33) Darlington v Rotherham
(34) Doncaster v Exeter
(35) Hartlepool v Macclesfield
(36) Hull v Swansea
(37) Lincoln v Scarborough
(38) Rochdale v Peterborough
(39) Scunthorpe v Mansfield
(—) Torquay v Colchester

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Macclsfld	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Exeter	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Peterboro	3	2	0	1	7	1	6
Notts Co	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Torquay	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Swansea	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Cardiff	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Scarboro	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Lincoln	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
Scunthrpe	3	2	0	1	2	2	6
Barnet	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Colchester	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Hartlpool	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Chester	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Camb Utd	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Rotherham	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Mansfield	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Rochdale	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Shrwsbury	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
L Orient	3	1	0	2	2	2	3
Brighton	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
Darlington	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Doncaster	3	0	0	3	1	10	0
Hull	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Dover v Hednesford
(—) Halifax v Welling
(—) Hereford v Stevenage
(—) Kettering v Cheltenham
(—) Kidderminster v Hayes
(—) Morecambe v Telford
(—) Rushden and D v Gateshead
(—) Southport v Farnborough
(—) Stalybridge v Slough
(—) Woking v Northwich
(—) Yeovil v Leek

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Aberdeen v Dundee Utd
(41) Dunfermline v St Johnstone
(42) Hibernian v Hearts

First division

(43) Airdrie v Partick
(44) Dundee v Raith
(45) Hamilton v Ayr
(46) St Mirren v Greenock Morton
(47) Stirling v Falkirk

Second division

(48) East Fife v Clyde
(49) Forfar v Clydebank
(—) Livingston v Queen of South
(—) Stenhousemuir v Inverness CT
(—) Stranraer v Brechin

Third division

(—) Berwick v Arbroath
(—) Dumbarton v Alloa
(—) East Stirling v Queen's Park
(—) Montrose v Cowdenbeath
(—) Ross County v Albion

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership

* Liverpool v Newcastle (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division

* Crewe v Port Vale (1.0)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

Kilmarnock v Motherwell

TELEVISION DETAILS

BBC1: Today: Football Focus (in Grandstand, 12.20pm); Match of the Day, 10.50pm.

Channel 4: Tomorrow: Football Italia, Internazionale v Brescia (2.45)

Sky Sports 1: Today: Spanish League, Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid (live, 7.30)
Tomorrow: FA Carling Premiership, Liverpool v Newcastle United (4.0)

Sky Sports 3: Tomorrow: Nationwide League, Crewe Alexandra v Port Vale (live, 1.0)

THE FAR CORNER

Cross-border skirmishes - how English and Scottish clubs have fared in European combat

EUROPEAN CUP

SCOTLAND 2 ENGLAND 1

Date	Round	Teams	Scores
1969-70	(sf)	**Celtic** v Leeds	(2-1, 1-0)
1980-81	(2)	Aberdeen v **Liverpool**	(0-1, 0-4)
1992-93	(2)	**Rangers** v Leeds	(2-1, 2-1)

CUP WINNERS CUP

SCOTLAND 2 ENGLAND 2

Date	Round	Teams	Scores
1960-61	(sf)	**Rangers** v Wolverhampton	(2-0, 1-1)
1962-63	(2)	Rangers v **Tottenham**	(2-3, 2-5)
1965-66	(sf)	Celtic v **Liverpool**	(1-0, 0-2)
1968-69	(qf)	**Dunfermline** v West Bromwich	(0-0, 1-0)

UEFA CUP (incl Fairs Cup)

SCOTLAND 2 ENGLAND 14

Date	Round	Teams	Scores
1962-63	(1)	**Dunfermline** v Everton	(2-0, 0-1)
1964-65	(1)	Kilmarnock v **Everton**	(0-2, 1-4)
1966-67	(sf)	Kilmarnock v **Leeds**	(0-0, 2-4)
1967-68	(3)	Hibernian v **Leeds**	(1-1, 0-1)
1967-68	(qf)	Rangers v **Leeds**	(0-0, 2-3)
1967-68	(sf)	Dundee v **Leeds**	(1-1, 0-1)
1968-69	(1)	Greenock Morton v **Chelsea**	(3-4, 0-5)
1968-69	(sf)	Rangers v **Newcastle**	(0-0, 0-2)
1969-70	(1)	Dundee Utd v **Newcastle**	(1-2, 0-1)
1970-71	(3)	Hibernian v **Liverpool**	(0-1, 0-2)
1973-74	(2)	Aberdeen v **Tottenham**	(1-1, 1-4)
1973-74	(2)	Hibernian v **Leeds**	(0-0, 0-0, 4-5pen)
1975-76	(1)	Hibernian v **Liverpool**	(2-4, 0-4)
1981-82	(1)	**Aberdeen** v Ipswich	(3-1, 1-1)
1983-84	(3)	Celtic v **Nottm Forest**	(1-2, 0-0)
1984-85	(3)	Dundee Utd v **Manchester Utd**	(2-3, 2-2)

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

هيئة أمن الاعلام

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Blackburn revel in Rover's return

After a frustrating spell in the shadows Chris Sutton is back, older, wiser and doing what he does best

OLIVER HOLT

MARC ASPLAND

After a prolific start to the season and a mention in dispatches by the England coach, Sutton is enjoying life again as Blackburn regain the look of the champions that they once were

It is the high country that Chris Sutton inhabits now. It is a land of red-brick viaducts and green valleys, a swath of countryside where cars wait in passing places on single-track roads, a place where the great mills and chimneys of the industrial North give way to quaint small towns and villages of light stone houses, tea rooms and shops called The Chocolate Box.

In one of these towns, on a quiet street away from the car park where the tourist coaches stop, Sutton is sitting in a bistro, cradling the elder of his young, flaxen-haired sons on his knee, helping him to eat his lunch. His wife, Samantha, is sitting opposite; his brother, Ian, is on his right. They are regulars here and soon the owner of the place pulls up a chair and lets one of the boys draw pictures on his pad of receipts.

For some reason, perhaps because John Filan, the Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper bought from Coventry City, had been badly injured in the 7-2 win over Sheffield Wednesday earlier in the week, the conversation turns to Steve Ogrizovic.

"He saved a penalty of mine once with his foot," Sutton said with a smile. "Must be a brilliant 'keeper."

"Ball probably never reached the six-yard box if it was one of yours," his brother said.

When lunch is over and the restaurant has emptied out, Sutton sits alone at the table for a while, contemplating the return of the good times. Blackburn, unbeaten in the first four games under their new manager, Roy Hodgson, and scorers of 13 goals to boot, go into the match today at Crystal Palace sitting atop the FA Carling Premiership and Sutton, with five goals, is the league's joint-leading scorer, the man of the moment.

He seems to be playing as well as he ever has, revelling in the restored responsibility of being the target man, the role he enjoys most, the one that best suits his game. He has made such an impression that Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said yesterday that he had considered him when choosing his squad for the game against Moldova in ten days' time and may still draft him in if another striker is injured this weekend.

Sutton looked like the complete striker against Sheffield Wednesday, creating chances for others, working back tirelessly and holding the ball up to redistribute it. His first goal, a curling right-foot drive from 20 yards, was the pick of the glut. Behind Sutton and around him, Hodgson has instilled a new confidence into a team that flirted long and close with relegation last season. Kevin Gallacher is scoring goals, too, Stuart Ripley and Jason Wilcox are running riot down the flanks, Garry Flitcroft is working like a Trojan in the centre of midfield and Colin Hendry is as firm as ever at the back.

Amid the euphoria in this part of Lancashire, though, Sutton is a model of rationality. The good times have rolled for him before and he knows their pitfalls. The first time that they bore down on him, when he was a carefree 20-year-old scoring goals with abandon for Norwich City, they brought screaming tabloid front-page headlines about his private life along with them.

The second time, after he had held his own, and more, playing alongside Alan Shearer in the strike force the newspapers nicknamed the SAS, for Sutton and Shearer, scored 20 goals and won a championship medal under the management of Kenny Dalglish, he was bewildered when he found himself left out in the cold at the start of the next season, amid rumours that Shearer preferred playing with Mike Newell, and asked to play in defence when he had proved himself one of the best strikers in the country.

Now he is back up there again and this time he is older and wiser, better equipped to deal with the ephemerality of success and put it in perspective. He still finds it hard to forget ill-judged criticism — the fact that someone labelled him a "flop" a few months after he led Blackburn to the championship still rankles — but he can laugh at it now.

Above all, he speaks with a quiet thoughtfulness that is rare in modern footballers. He hates the fact that the increasing concentration on statistics, on passes completed, shots made and the rest is in danger of taking the spontaneity and invention out of the game. But he is reflective rather than uproarious, someone who is open and approachable and free of the obsessive need for self-aggrandisement that blights the characters of lesser talents.

"I want to do well and I am very self-critical," Sutton said. "In a game, I get angry with myself if I am not doing things right. With the highs like the one we are on at the moment, I am on a fairly even keel. If things are going well, I know from experience that they can turn and you can fall flat on your face again.

"Of course, having Hodgson at the club has made a difference. Part of it may be that when you get a new manager coming in, you are always going to have a honeymoon period with the euphoria of him arriving when all the players are knuckling down and wanting to impress, play well and be in the starting XI.

"That may be the case at the moment, but training methods are different this season. We seem to be training a lot longer and the preparation before and after games seems to be better than it has been in previous years. That is not being disrespectful to previous managers here: it just seems to be the way the game is going. We seem to be taking a lot more time over stretching, warm-ups, warm-downs before and after training, massages, the food we are eating, the times we eat the food, staying at hotels before the games just to make sure the players are all comfortable and have the right rest and the team spirit is right. The difficult period is going to come in the next few months after the honeymoon period is over.

"This season, though, the slate has been wiped clean and we are starting afresh. There is a different mentality at the club now. Everything has changed. It is a massive season for me and for Blackburn. Blackburn have had two years in the wilderness and I suppose people would say the same for me. We were always up against it last season, but now there is more of a feeling that our destiny is in our own hands."

Sutton, 24, was born in Nottingham but grew up in Norwich, where his father played for the Canaries in the 1960s. He joined the club as a trainee and was soon in the first team and playing for England Under-21. After he scored 28 goals in the 1993-94 season, he was supposed to be on the verge of joining Arsenal when Dalglish paid a club-record fee of £5 million to take him to Blackburn. He spent a night in the cells in Norwich on the eve of the transfer after a celebratory evening out with friends, but he was soon making the right sort of headlines again, blazing a trail with Shearer as Blackburn barged the rest aside to win the title in 1995.

From then until the start of this season, his career had been consigned to the shadows, first by the idiosyncrasies of Ray Harford, who took over from Dalglish, and then by a series of injuries. When he scored a hat-trick against Aston Villa in Rovers' second game of this season, one newspaper called him "the Premiership's forgotten man".

Now, though, he is very much back in the limelight, a bit thicker-skinned, ready to deal with whatever is thrown at him with equanimity. I tell him some people still say he is moody and this time Sutton just grins. "Depends what you mean by moody," he said.

Mark Hodkinson continues to follow life in a town coming to terms with a 6-0 home defeat

Hurricane Vialli: the aftermath

LIFE AT THE TOP

Solace does not exist in a 6-0 home defeat. It is a deathly scoreline, one that even non-football fans will recognise as surreal. "Didn't their goalkeeper turn up?" they will ask. "Did someone lace their cups of tea at half-time?"

Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, steadfastly faced the press minutes after his team had been annihilated by Chelsea at Oakwell last Sunday. Football folk tend to talk in euphemisms, but there was only one left for Wilson, so he used it: "It's not the end of the world."

Make no mistake, 5.50pm on Sunday would have felt like Armageddon for Wilson. This was, after all, the Barnsley nightmare: a team savagely outplayed, made to look slow, thoughtless and — much worse — awkwardly out of place. "They toyed with us," Wilson admitted.

Since the game was played on a Sunday and broadcast live by Sky television, it received an extra emphasis. It was like inviting the family around for Sunday dinner and forgetting to switch on the oven, an indignity turned into a sporting catastrophe. It was 6-0 everywhere you looked: Vialli's retracted foot, the net bulging, the clenched fist, red shirts and red faces slumped to the ground, again and again.

The hushed tones with which the score was relayed made it seem that a team so neglectful as to concede six goals would be relegated on the spot. This is largely because Barnsley and relegation have been synonymous since before the season began. When Barnsley lose, it is viewed as a precursor to demotion, but for anyone else a defeat is an aberration, a blip in their form. It is almost as if Barnsley's presence in the FA Carling Premiership is seen as a massive stroke of good fortune.

The fact is that they are in the top division because, over the course of last season, they were consistently a better team than all but one of their peers (Bolton Wanderers) in the first division of the Nationwide League.

It might seem tart to mention, but on Sunday evening Barnsley were still higher in the league than, among others, Liverpool, Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa. Also, many commentators failed to point out that a 6-0 defeat brings about precisely the same points tally as a 1-0 deficit. The real forfeit is measured in the psychological damage it can inflict and this appears to have been fairly minimal.

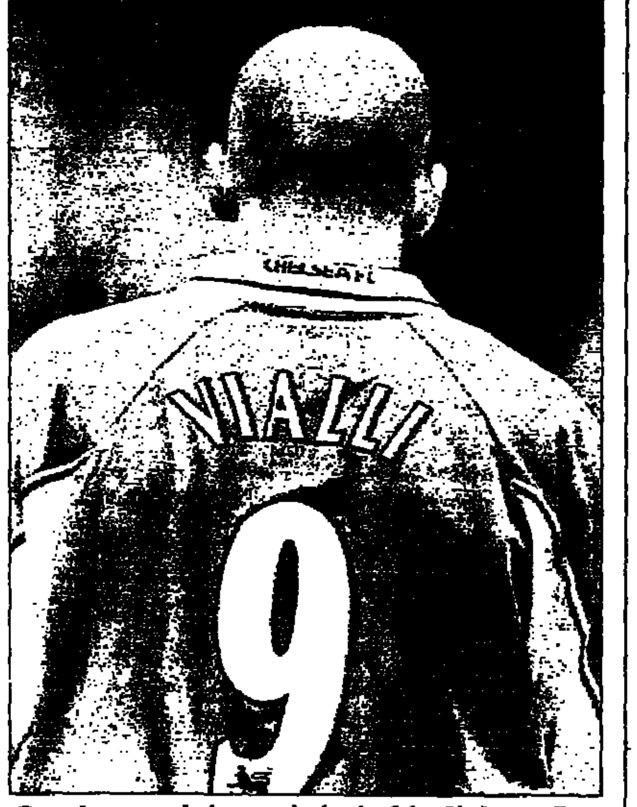
On Wednesday, Eric Winstanley, the Barnsley first-team coach, shared some of the media duties with Wilson. A former player at Oakwell, he was not known for his delicacy of tackle and his prose is similarly brusque. Typically, death was mentioned again. "Either you lie down and die or you bounce back," he told reporters before the match with Bolton. Barnsley won 2-1 and played with the joyous abandon of a team that had merely read about someone being humiliated 6-0 rather than the team that had suffered it.

On this occasion, Sky was elsewhere, so the result did not have the same resonance. This will not cause them to weep into their beer in Barnsley because there have been a few too many cameras roaming the streets of late. It has even become difficult to find a gaggle of excitable youngsters willing to jump around manically over the shoulder of a hapless interviewee. The exceptional has quickly become the commonplace.

While the media has been intrusive and intense, it has also been surprisingly respectful in its portrayal of the club and town. There has, of course, been mention of the traditional stereotype — the whippets, the pigeons, the cobbled streets — but in an affectionate way. Some observers have yelled that the town has been patronised, though this is a fairly ill-defined charge. In any area of life, sport or otherwise, a complimentary remark is often interpreted as patronising these days.

Barnsley, on the whole, has done extremely well by the media. It is a town that has its own culture, which is unashamedly home-spun. One lead story in the local papers this week was about Harry Potter, a former baker who has decided to spend his retirement racing pigeons. "I've gone from being a pie widow to a pigeon widow," his wife, Elaine, said. Pies, pigeons: this is post-modernism, Barnsley style.

MARC ASPLAND



Barnsley were glad to see the back of the Chelsea striker

Expert analysis falls short

Off the line

by Russell Kempson

STEVE CLARIDGE, the Leicester City striker, and Ladbrokes, the bookmaker, have teamed up in a novel "charity challenge" aimed at raising money for worthy causes. The object of the exercise is for Claridge, using his extensive knowledge, to bet on a series of fixed-odds football selections each weekend. Sadly, he drew a blank on the opening day of the season and he did not fare much better second time around. Two of his four home "bankers" — Middlesbrough and Norwich City — bit the dust, as did two of his four away "certs" — Charlton Athletic and Wolverhampton Wanderers. Perhaps the expectant charities should not hold out too much hope of an imminent windfall. Is Claridge not the player, in his highly entertaining memoirs, who admitted losing a six-figure sum by . . . gambling.

Welcome back

Most intriguing draw of the Coca-Cola Cup second round was that of Reading against Peterborough United. Hardly a clash of the titans, granted, but there should be more spice than sugar when the sides meet up. Two weeks ago, Jimmy Quinn, the former Reading joint-player-manager, had a few unkind words to say about Reading on the eve of their derby against Swindon Town. It resulted in Clive "The Hound" Baskerville, football correspondent of the *Reading Evening Post*, being banned from Elm Park. Though The Hound has now been forgiven, it will be interesting to see who he chooses to interview in the build-up to the Coca-Cola Cup tie. As it happens, by chance, Jimmy Quinn now plays for Peterborough.

Culture shock

Aljosa Asanovic, the cultured Derby County midfield player, was not a happy bunny when he returned home to Croatia during the summer recess. His posh café, *Le Monde*, was apparently unrecognisable from how he had left it and debts had piled up. Asanovic's reaction, in Split, was predictable. He ranted, he raved, he threw a few things around — in fact, he went bananas.

Sticky business

Pass-the-sickbag advert of the season so far has to be the one featuring David Beckham, the hunky, handsome England and Manchester United midfield player. Slick-haired Beckham is the new "Brylcreem Boy" and, thus, is fair game for the copywriter's most banal drivel. It reads: "One young player swears by Brylcreem, using different styling products from the new range for his own needs. "Wet Look" gel for training, "Strong Hold" for match days and "Modelling gel" for evenings out." Of course he does: how could he possibly not?

Price of fame

Word is spreading, far and wide, about the Chelsea revolution. The gospel according to Ruud Gullit has even prompted Fraser Holland, 28, from Hawkes Bay, in New Zealand, to purchase a Stamford Bridge season ticket without having seen the side play. His first visit to Stamford Bridge was to pick out the seat he wanted in the Matthew Harding Stand; his second is today, when Chelsea play Southampton in the FA Carling Premiership. Holland arrived in England only four months ago, but his new Earls Court buddies quickly persuaded him to switch his allegiance from Napier City Rovers. The Bridge seats do not come cheap, though — Holland's cost £375.

Noisy reception

Few matches can have taken place with such a surreal backdrop as that between Reading Town and Feltham in the Courage Combined Counties League last weekend. Concentration was nigh on impossible as ear-splitting music blared across the Scours Lane ground and a bunch of lunatics plunged towards earth from a nearby bungee-jumping contraption. The chaotic distractions came courtesy of the annual Reading Rock Festival, when the nation's Great Unwashed invade the usually peaceful Berkshire town.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Pegguy Arphexad, Leicester City's new French goalkeeper, has fulfilled a dream by joining a club in the FA Carling Premiership. The boy Pegguy began his career with Brest.

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

United to face old foes

BY DAVID MADDOCK AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

AT Manchester United's Cliff training ground, the excited chatter was transformed into uneven breaths as the draw for the European Cup Champions' League reached the transistor airwaves. Then, in disbelief, gasps when the names of Juventus and Manchester United were pitched together once more.

The supporters, standing behind the crush-barriers that separate them from their idols, had drawn a quick conclusion. "It's a bloody fix," one uttered, betraying the still painful memory of United's harrowing experience at the hands of the Italian champions last season.

The draw at lunchtime yesterday confirmed what could have been derived from even a cursory glance at the participants. With an expansion of the competition there will be no hiding place, no opportunity to lose three matches and still qualify for the quarter-finals, as United did last time.

In this case, bigger is better, or rather, harder. Only the winners of each of six groups automatically qualify for the knockout stages, plus the two runners-up with the best records. Given United's group of Juventus, Feyenoord and Kosice, the Slovakian champions, and Newcastle United's even more imposing opponents, Barcelona, PSV Eindhoven and Dinamo Kiev, the prospect of English success in the competition appears remote.

As Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, conceded, victory in each of his side's six matches must be the objective. "The result of having the second-placed team from each country in the draw is to make it even harder than last season," he said.

"We have got to win the group, it is as simple as that. We can't even begin to think about being second, because that is not a realistic option of qualifying. We have to go right from the start to control the group."

At least the updated format, with its demand for victory and nothing short, is a movement back towards the excitement of knockout competition. Last season too many sides, including United, played for second place.

The downside, of course, is that English frailty is likely to be exposed, but Ferguson believes, and genuinely, that his side can match the likes of Juventus this time where they so palpably failed a year ago. "Sometimes you go down a street and don't know which door to knock on, but this time we know where that door is," he said. "It's about experience and we have got that after being there last season."

If Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, feels the same way, then he did a good job of hiding it yesterday, as he contemplated a draw that Ferguson suggested was the hardest of the six groups in the Champions' League. His response was to describe the FA Carling Premiership match against Liverpool at Anfield tomorrow as more important, even though he accepted that the draw was an historic occasion for his club.

Unsurprisingly, at Anfield, they were far happier to talk about their Uefa Cup draw against Celtic — who yesterday agreed to sell Jorge Cadete, the Portugal striker, to Celta Vigo, of Spain, for £3 million — than the game against Newcastle. As Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager pointed out, it is a tie that places a heavy burden of expectation on both sides.

"There are similarities between the two clubs," he said. "We were both the top clubs in our country and that is not the case anymore. They have had their problems and so have we. What that leaves is both sides looking for a victory that is hugely important to the club."

Newcastle and Liverpool, it would appear, will also be involved in combat off the pitch tomorrow. Massimo Paganin, the Internazionale defender, is travelling from Italy to watch the game and will then talk to the respective clubs about a possible £3.5 million move.

Also in the Uefa Cup, Leicester City have been paired with Atlético Madrid, who spent £30 million rebuilding their squad during the summer, including the purchase of Juninho from Middlesbrough. "It's terrific, a fantastic draw," Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said. "Atlético are one of the biggest clubs in Europe."

Aston Villa will play Bordeaux and Arsenal take on PAOK Salonika, of Greece, while Chelsea meet Slovan Bratislavia, of Slovakia, in the first round of the Cup Winners' Cup.

EUROPEAN DRAWS

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Borussia Dortmund (Ger), Sparta Prague (Cz), Parma (It), Galatasaray (Tur) Group B: Feyenoord (Holl), FC Kosice (Slovakia), Manchester United, Juventus (It). Group C: Barcelona (Sp), PSV Eindhoven (Holl), Dynamo Kiev (Ukr), Newcastle United Group D: FC Porto (Por), Real Madrid (Sp), Rosenborg BK (Nor), Olympiakos (Gr). Group E: IFK Gothenburg (Swe), Bayern Munich (Ger), Besiktas (Tur), Paris Saint-Germain (Fr). Group F: Lierse (Bel), Sporting Lisbon (Por), AS Monaco (Fr), Bayer Leverkusen (Ger). English club dates: October: 1: Manchester United v Juventus; Kiev v Newcastle. 22: Manchester United v Feyenoord; PSV Eindhoven v Newcastle November: 5: Feyenoord v Manchester United. Newcastle v PSV 26: Manchester United v Kosice; Barcelona v Newcastle December: 10: Juventus v Manchester United; Newcastle v Dynamo Kiev.

UEFA CUP: First round: Group A: Deportivo La Coruña (Sp) v * Auxerre (Fr); Salzburg (Austria) v * Anderlecht (Bel); PAOK Salonika (Gr) v Arsenal. Widzew Lodz (Pol) v Udinese (It). Group B: * Ajax (Holl) v Maribor Branik (Slovenia); Lyons (Fr) v * Brondby (Den); MPKC Mozyr (Bela) v Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo). Real Valladolid (Sp) v Skonto Riga (Lat) Group C: Vitoria Guimarães (Por) v * Lazio (It). Strasbourg (Fr) v * Rangers (Scot). MTK Budapest (Hun) v Alania Vladikavkaz (Russ); Schalke 04 (Ger) v Hajduk Split (Cro) Group D: Bastia (Fr) v * Benfica (Por); FC Sion (Switz) v * Spartak Moscow (Russ); Ferencvaros (Hun) v OFI Crete (Gr); Sampdoria (It) v Athletic Bilbao (Sp) Group E: * Bordeaux (Fr) v Aston Villa: * Steaua Bucharest (Rom) v Fenerbahce (Tur). Rotor Volgograd (Russ) v Orebro (Swe); FC Jazz (Fin) v Munich 1860 (Ger). Group F: * Trabzonspor (Tur) v VfL Bochum (Ger), Croatia Zagreb (Cro) v * Grasshopper Zurich (Switz); Vitesse Arnhem (Holl) v Sporting Braga (Por), Rapid Vienna (Austria) v Hapoel Petach-Tikva (Isr). Group G: * Internazionale (It) v Neuchâtel Xamax (Switz); Celtic v * Liverpool, Excelsior Mouscron (Bel) v Metz (Fr); Twente Enschede (Holl) v Lillestrøm (Nor). Group H: Beitar Jerusalem (Isr) v * FC Bruges (Bel); * Atlético Madrid (Sp) v Leicester City; AGF Aarhus (Den) v Nantes (Fr); Karlsruhe (Ger) v Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp).

☐ First leg ties to be played September 16, second leg ties to be played September 30

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: First round: is as follows: * Kocaelispor (Tur) v Nacional Bucharest (Rom); Apoel Nicosia (Cyp) v * Sturm Graz (Austria). * VfB Stuttgart (Ger) v IB Vestmannaeyja (Ice). * Boavista (Por) v Shakhtyor Donetsk (Ukr), * Germinal Ekeren (Bel) v Red Star Belgrade (Yug). * AIK Solna (Swe) v NK Primorje (Slovenia); * AEK Athens (Gr) v Dinaburg Daugavpils (Lat); * Slavia Prague (Cz) v Lucerne (Switz). Hapoel Beersheba (Isr) v * Roda JC Kerkarde (Holl). MK Zagreb (Cro) v * Tromso (Nor); * FC Copenhagen (Den) v Ararat Yerevan (Arm); Belshyna Bobruisk (Bela) v * Lokomotiv Moscow (Russ); * Chelsea v Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia). * Nice (Fr) v Kilmarnock; * Real Betis (Sp) v Vasutas (Hun). * Vicenza (It) v Legia Warsaw (Pol).

☐ First leg ties to be played September 18, second leg ties to be played October 2

* denotes seeded teams

Juninho has already proved a big hit with the fans at Atlético Madrid

Ronaldo, left, will be out to impress for Inter tomorrow, as will Souness and Lentini, the winger, right, as they begin the Italian league season with Torino

Souness knows the only way is up

Expectations and anxieties are high as the Italian and Spanish league seasons prepare to get under way this weekend

BRIAN GLANVILLE

For Graeme Souness, the new manager of Torino, it is a question of promotion or bust. Torino, impregnable champions of Italy until the Superga air crash wiped out their team in 1949, are now in Serie B and are trying to get out of it. After a series of financial scandals there is new money in the club, but it remains to be seen if the present team can take off.

Tomorrow Torino begin their league programme with an away game against Ancona, after mixed fortunes in the Italian Cup. They struggled to survive the first round against third-division opposition, going down to an embarrassing 4-2 defeat away to Como in the first leg.

Souness, a former star with Sampdoria, refused to attribute the defeat to tactics, instead blaming it on individual error. But significantly, in the return leg last Sunday, in which Tony Dorigo, freshly arrived from Leeds United, made his debut, he changed to a sweeper defence in which Roberto Cravero, the former international, played libero rather than the expensively purchased Parma defender, Lorenzo Minotti, who had been struggling at the centre of a flat back four.

Cravero, though bought from Lazio, was one of the numerous fine players developed at Torino under a youth scheme run by the legendary Sergio Vatta. So was the winger, Gigi Lentini, who has returned to the club after an excellent season with Atalanta, where he was on loan from Milan. Lentini was at the centre of one of Torino's greatest scandals when Milan bought him for £13 million, but the fee declared was £9 million. Not long after that, Lentini was badly hurt in a car crash and took a long time to recover.

For Souness, who resigned as manager of Southampton last season, an added bonus during the 3-0 victory in the second leg was the performance of Romano Foglia, 20, another Torino product, who came on in the second half and scored twice.

Juventus, in whose giant shadow Torino must play, open their Serie A campaign against Lecce, one of the four promoted clubs, most of whom, as usual, will struggle to survive. Juventus know that Milan, who have Fabio Capello back in charge, will press them far harder than they did last season. Already, Milan have beaten Juve 3-1 in a pre-season match in which the spearhead of George Weah and Patrick Kluivert, newly arrived from Ajax, looked formidable.

Kluivert, none too popular with the Holland fans after his various escapades, has said that, if they jeer him in the World Cup game against Belgium next Saturday, he will not play for Holland again. Shades of a former Milan star, Ruud Gullit.

This week a goal by

Juninho beat Internazionale in a pre-season match away to Atlético Madrid, who open the Spanish league season tonight against Real Madrid at the Bernabeu Stadium, a match that will be televised live on Sky.

Curiously Capello, who won the championship with Real last season, has bitterly lamented the contrast between Spanish and Italian fans, to the detriment of the latter. In Spain, he said, a team can leave its coach parked in the certainty that it will not be vandalised. Yet not so long ago the extreme right-wing Ultras Sur, who stood on the terraces in Madrid, scarcely discouraged by the club, were among the most violent fans in Europe.

Spanish footballers have withdrawn their threat to strike if plans to allow as many as six players per team from outside the European Union go through. They had wanted the number to be merely one, knowing that a club such as Deportivo La Coruña under a Brazilian manager, Alberto Silva, now have a preponderance of Brazilians. Deportivo have ruled out the French forward, Mardar, on the spurious grounds that he injured one of them, Mauro Silva, in a training game.

Another Brazilian, Ronaldo, is under increasing pressure as he prepares to lead Inter's attack against promoted Brescia at the San Siro tomorrow. Cesar Luis Menotti, the new manager of Sampdoria — Torino's next opponents in the cup — is sceptical. Menotti, who as manager of Argentina launched Diego Maradona's international career but would not choose him for the 1978 World Cup, said: "At 21, Diego never went out on the street. He took great care to avoid stressful journeys and thought only of playing and improving. Ronaldo, instead, seems to have his head elsewhere. He should concentrate more on football and forget the marketing which surrounds him and can trap him."

Menotti said that it cannot be denied that Ronaldo is a great player, but he prefers Romario. "Inter should have bought him as well," he said. "Together they form a couple to put any defence in crisis."

The match, which Inter are expected to win easily, will be televised by Channel 4, but Brescia have already embarrassed them in a pre-season match and the Inter president, Massimo Moratti, has denied rumours that their new manager, Gigi Simoni, is to be sacked. His transition to catenaccio is proving problematic.

What hope at Sampdoria for Daniele Dichio, who arrived on a free transfer from Queens Park Rangers, now that Jürgen Klinsmann and the veteran, Sandro Tovalieri, have been bought and Vincenzo Montella, so prolific last season, is already in fine form? "I shall be the new Mancini," Montella said.

Roberto Mancini, Sampdoria's icon, has gone to Lazio but that still leaves two stars up front . . . not to mention Moreles, transferred from Menotti's last Argentinian club, Independiente. Dichio has made an excellent personal impression in Genoa, but how hard it will be to get off the bench.

Scotland lose unlucky Jackson

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

DARREN JACKSON, the Celtic forward, is to undergo brain surgery. He missed Tuesday's Uefa Cup-tie with FC Tirol after suffering severe headaches and tests have shown that he is suffering from a congenital condition, hydrocephalus. The operation, which should take place next week, will install a by-pass to prevent the blockage of fluid that has affected him.

The procedure is carried out on about a dozen occasions per year in the west of Scotland and it enjoys a high success rate. Jackson had the option of refusing surgery, which might only have become a necessity in later life, but he would then have been unable to continue playing football. It is still accepted that he will be out of the game for at least three months.

During that period, however, he may be able to maintain his fitness by running. The discovery of a neurological condition is distressing at any time, but there is a particular poignancy in the case of Jackson, who, at 31, has only just reached the highest level of the sport. He was, of course, absent from the squad named yesterday for Scotland's qualifying match with Belarus at Pittodrie on 6 September.

Craig Brown, the manager of the national team, is particularly sensitive to Jackson's plight. "Darren has had to struggle hard to make it," he said, "and you wouldn't compare his skills to those of a Jim Baxter or a Jimmy Johnstone. When we were based at Stratford for the European championship last summer, he always put in an extra session of his own after training and he worked like a beast. Nobody has ever deserved international recognition more."

Not even the unavailability of Jackson, however, could create a vacancy for Duncan Ferguson, the Everton forward. Brown explained this by saying that he has remained loyal to existing members of his squad, but it is likely that considerable obstacles lie in the path of Ferguson should he wish to return to the international squad.

He last appeared for his country in the 0-0 draw with Estonia in Monaco in February. Scotland have since played four World Cup qualifying matches and Ferguson has not been fit for any of them. It would be premature to suggest that Ferguson, 25, will never be capped again, but an impasse has been reached.

Brown will be more concerned by other matters, such as the fitness of the Scotland captain, Gary McAllister. The midfield player has a knee injury and is doubtful for Coventry City's fixture at Old Trafford this afternoon. Should he be ruled out, McAllister will face the fixture with Belarus without any match practice since 11 August.

Other members of the squad must take the risks involved in furious action, since Celtic, who have agreed to sell Jorge Cadete to Celta Vigo for £3 million, face Rangers on Monday. Today, Hibernian begin their match against Heart of Midlothian as leaders of the Bell's Scottish League premier division.

SCOTLAND: T Boyd (Celtic), C Burley (Celtic), C Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), J Collins (AS Monaco), C Dailly (Derby County), W Dodds (Aberdeen), S Donnelly (Celtic), G Durie (Chelsea), K Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers), A Goram (Rangers), C Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), D Hopkin (Leeds United), P Lambert (Borussia Dortmund), J Leighton (Aberdeen), B McAllister (Wimbledon), G McAllister (Coventry City), A McCoist (Rangers), T McKinlay (Celtic), W McKinlay (Blackburn Rovers), J McNamara (Celtic), N Sullivan (Wimbledon), D Weir (Heart of Midlothian)

Hinchcliffe may return

ANDY HINCHCLIFFE could be back in the Everton first team squad on Monday when they go to Bolton Wanderers to open the Reebok stadium. The 28-year-old left back plays tomorrow in an A team match at his former club, Manchester City.

It will be his second run-out in a week, having come through a friendly with a touring American college side. Now if he copes with the juniors, Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, could put him on the substitutes' bench at Bolton, one of the newcomers to the FA Carling Premiership.

Hinchcliffe has seen his England career put on hold after suffering a serious cruciate knee problem last December. His comeback was further handicapped by a thigh injury in pre-season training.

"The thigh is fine now, and it was good to get the game with the Americans completed, my first 90 minutes for 8½ months," he said.

"I was tired and my knee was stiff, but that's bound to be the case. My fitness and weight are OK, and I don't feel I am that far away."

Townsend signs up in secret

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ANDY TOWNSEND could have been a prime candidate for a move to Newcastle United, joining Kenny Dalglish's thirtysomething band of Stuart Pearce, Ian Rush and John Barnes. Instead, he chose Middlesbrough yesterday as probably the last port of call in his distinguished career.

Townsend left Aston Villa for a fee of £500,000, the deal being completed in surprising secrecy and with impressive speed. The Ireland captain spoke with Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, in Birmingham on Thursday night, travelled north with him yesterday morning, signed a two-year contract and then trained with his new colleagues. He will start as a substitute in the Nationwide League first division match away to Tranmere Rovers this afternoon.

"Andy is an experienced international footballer with exceptional qualities," Robson said. "He will be invaluable to us as we bid for an immediate return to the Premiership. We're very fortunate to have acquired someone of his talent and status. Signing him shows our ambition and ability to attract top players to the club."

Townsend said: "I might be 34, but this is a great new challenge for me. The North East is an exciting place to be playing football just now and Boro will get my 100 per cent commitment. I have a lot of respect for Bryan and this was a major factor in me coming here."

Although Middlesbrough have played only two matches this season, they have yet to live up to their billing as one of the favourites for the title. They struggled to a 2-1 home win over Charlton Athletic on the opening day and lost 1-0, also at the Riverside Stadium, against Stoke City last weekend. Even though Townsend's early form has been similarly patchy, Robson will hope that his arrival has the desired effect.

Norwich City's exertions thus far have proved even less fruitful. They have lost all three league matches and also made an ignominious exit from the Coca-Cola Cup against Barnet, of the third division, in midweek. However, Keith O'Neill, the Ireland and Norwich winger, is not too despondent, even ahead of an awkward game against Sunderland at the Stadium of Light today.

"We've got a lot of good individuals at this club, but we're not playing well as a team," he said. "We've got to sort it out. It's just a lack of confidence at the moment and we should be alright once we get that back. It's a very difficult game against Sunderland, but, hopefully, we'll come away with our first league victory. We're counting on it — it has to come soon."

Mark Robins, the former Manchester United striker, has joined Reading on a month's loan from Leicester City. Robins, 28, will make his debut against Bradford City this afternoon.

ROWING 39
Single-mindedness of Redgrave now divided in four

SPORT

TENNIS 42
Rusedski shrugs off distractions to win in New York

Hoddle happy to lead Wright's defence

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ON ANOTHER day, it might have been about Rio Ferdinand and Emile Heskey and the exciting international futures ahead of them. Instead, the hotel basement where Glenn Hoddle yesterday announced his England squad for the World Cup qualifying tie against Moldova took on the feeling of a courtroom dock without the accused. The England coach was playing counsel for the defence.

Hoddle was forced to spend an inordinate amount of time citing evidence in mitigation of the antics of Ian Wright, the FA Carling Premiership's most notorious recidivist, at the end of Arsenal's 3-3 draw with Leicester City at Filbert Street on Wednesday night when he came back onto the pitch to remonstrate with Graham Barber, the referee.

In the two days that have followed his ill-judged but innocuous actions, Wright has been compared to some of British criminology's most celebrated protagonists, both real and fictional. Nevertheless, England, deprived of the services of Alan Shearer, are likely to rely heavily on Wright in the two remaining World Cup qualifying games, against Moldova on September 10 and Italy on October 11.

As hints emerged that any punitive action resulting from Wright's latest misconduct charge would not be effected until after the match in Rome, Hoddle leapt to his defence. "Ian Wright has still got a case to answer," Hoddle said, "but a lot of people seem to have given the answer already. He is very much in my thoughts because he is playing extremely well. There are too many people who have jumped on the bandwagon of criticising him pretty quickly.

"I have studied the video of what happened after the match and there is not much there. There is no law that says someone who has been substituted cannot re-enter the pitch. He has not broken any rules there. There were about seven or eight other Arsenal players on there with him and Ian would probably not even have got a yellow card for what he did. Why was he reported and not the others?

"As far as what is done to discipline him, I cannot control that. He came off the pitch in a very controlled manner. The referee probably reported him because he is Ian Wright. Marc Overmars said things to the referee, too, but he is not Ian Wright. He gets picked on because of who he is.

"Ian was provoked in a lot of ways. If he had run onto that pitch and smacked someone in the mouth, then he would not have been in the squad today. But I didn't think what happened was a major issue."

Hoddle may find that he is criticised himself for having the temerity to defend Wright, but Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, stood up for his striker, too. "There is an obsession with Ian Wright now," Wenger said. "I am reading about the chance of a 12-match ban, and if the FA do that they will kill him, but I believe they are strong enough to deal correctly with this."

It would surely be more appropriate to give Wright a retrospective yellow card for his actions or punish him with a one-match ban rather than resort to draconian measures that would be pandering to a form of collective hysteria. Whatever happens, the issue all but obscured the chances given to Ferdinand and Heskey, the recall of Stuart Ripley and the absence of Steve McManaman.

Ferdinand, 18, who has made just 20 first-team appearances for West Ham United, has been given his chance because of injuries to others, but there is a feeling that this will be the first of many inclusions in the squad of a player who can become the ball-playing sweeper that Hoddle covets.

McManaman's absence, Hoddle said, was due more to his troubled start to the season than the fact that he missed the Tournoi de France in the summer. If Robbie Fowler, another Tournoi absentee, had been fit, he would also have been included. His omission, though, is an opportunity for Ripley, such an important factor in Blackburn Rovers' renaissance, to stake his own claim.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS: D Seaman (Arsenal), I Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), N Martyn (Leeds United)

DEFENDERS: G Neville (Manchester United), G Southgate (Aston Villa), G Pallister (Manchester United), R Ferdinand (West Ham United), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), G Le Saux (Chelsea), P Neville (Manchester United).

MIDFIELD PLAYERS: D Batty (Newcastle United), N Butt (Manchester United), D Beckham (Manchester United), P Gascoigne (Rangers), P Scholes (Manchester United), R Lee (Newcastle United), S Ripley (Blackburn Rovers)

FORWARDS: E Sheringham (Manchester United), L Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur), I Wright (Arsenal), S Collymore (Aston Villa), E Heskey (Leicester City). *One player to be added.*

Ferdinand: coveted

Steve McManaman; page 45

THE TIMES
THE PAPE
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FOOTBAL
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EUROPEAN GLO
Juventus block the way again fo Alex Ferguson
Newcastle face Barcelona, Eindhoven and Kiev
Liverpool v Celtic in the Uefa Cup and full draws, page 47
BRIAN GLANVILLE, PAGE 47

ROVER'S RETURN

Chris Sutton talks to Oliver Holt, page 46

Under the skin of sport

Wavering captain remains at England helm after backing from selectors

Atherton refuses to jump ship

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

THE conversion of Michael Atherton began at the Oval last Saturday evening and ended, five nights later, with drinks and reassurance from the chairman of selectors. Only then did a man committed to resignation take the momentous decision to continue as captain of England.

Yesterday, blinking and grinning before a mass of cameras and microphones at Lord's, Atherton spoke with conviction about the fresh challenge that sustained him. He gave every impression of someone who had decided in his own time. I understand, however, that he had met David Graveney, the chairman, the previous evening still unsure whether he should stand down.

Atherton telephoned Graveney on Thursday morning to request the meeting. Graveney had spent the week preparing for the unwelcome news that his captain would resign and arrived in London surprised to find him still procrastinating. For the next hour, the issue hung in the balance.

Although Graveney did not apply coercion or ultimatums, his repeated assertion of selectorial confidence in Atherton probably swung a decision that so nearly went the other way. "I needed to know that the selectors still wanted me," Atherton admitted.

Graveney, having given the required encouragement and received the positive decision that he had always wanted, then spoke to his fellow selectors, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, and the reappointment was ratified without demur or further delay.

Atherton, who joins the selectors tomorrow for a provisional discussion of winter plans, will now lead England on a fifth tour, to the West Indies in January. A different captain is to be appointed for the one-day tournament in Sharjah in December and, probably, for the internationals at the end of the tour.

This outcome, much the best thing for the England team, could not have occurred if the final Ashes Test had been lost. Last Thursday night, after a dreadful batting day for his side, Atherton, 29, was prepared for the end. The burden of four years in this most unforgiving of jobs was finally showing: his will for further punishment was almost spent. "If I said now that the Oval didn't make a difference, I would be lying," he said. "I'm only human and, despite what I said immediately after the game, it was a big influence."

The uplifting effect of a famous victory, the twelfth of his 46 matches in charge, made Atherton begin to rethink, but it was not, in itself, a sufficient reason to continue. Nor, grateful though he was, were the words and gestures of support from all quarters enough to seduce him.

After a night of uninhibited celebration last Saturday, Atherton went to ground. Until Thursday, the only member of the England management that he had contact with was David Lloyd, the coach, and even he was unaware of what would eventuate when Atherton met Graveney. "I had always said I wanted a few days," Atherton said. "I needed some time away. It was a tiring summer and I had to clear my head and settle some things in my own mind. It was a tough decision, but one I had to make on my own.

"There were two questions I had to ask myself: did I still have the same desire to do the job, and could I hope to get my batting back to its best while still captaining the side? I had to be sure of both these things if I was going to go on."

His batting was a leading concern. In six Tests this summer, Atherton averaged 23 — barely half his average since he became captain in 1993. He is not being complacent about it. "I have already booked some coaching sessions with Graham Gooch and I will be working and training hard," he said.

Once he had resolved such considerations and received the unequivocal backing of Graveney, Atherton could finally restore his attention to the ambition that had previously dominated his thinking — to win in the West Indies. "The main challenge for me is to beat the West Indies on their own patch," he said. "I have always maintained that we can do it if we play to our potential. At our best we can compete with any team in the world. At our worst, we are not a pretty sight.

"It was a case of either walking out on a job half-done or seeing it through. If I had given up, I might not exactly have failed, but I certainly would not have achieved what I set out to do. I might never get there. But I'm going to have a try."

In that, Atherton has the heartfelt goodwill of every rational cricket follower in the land. It was, however, a desperately near thing.

Atherton, who was within hours of resigning, can now look forward to the West Indies tour this winter. Photograph: Mike Cooper/Allsport

CAPTAINS' LOG

HOW ATHERTON COMPARES TO ENGLAND'S MODERN-DAY LEADERS

	P	W	L	D
M A Atherton (1993-97)	46	12	16	18
G A Gooch (1988-93)	34	10	12	12
M W Gatting (1986-89)	23	2	5	16
D I Gower (1984-89)	32	5	18	9
R G D Willis (1982-84)	18	7	5	6
J M Brearley (1977-81)	31	18	4	9
R Illingworth (1969-73)	31	12	5	14
E R Dexter (1962-64)	30	9	7	14
P B H May (1955-61)	41	20	10	11

Commentary, page 40
Glamorgan hit back, page 40
Smith sparkles, page 41

Those Spanish sighs have hidden meaning

Why Ballesteros is making such a big deal out of completing his Ryder Cup team for Valderrama

LYNNE TRUSS

When they first decided to make Severiano Ballesteros the Europe Ryder Cup captain, you can't help wondering, didn't the smallest frisson of doubt pass through the deliberations?

"Sorry to be a killjoy, but you don't think..."

"What?"

"Well..."

"What?"

"Nothing."

"Look, whatever it is, pal, for God's sake drive it into the rough and we'll play it as it lies."

"Well, you know. All I'm thinking is, can we trust Seve not to, you know, *make a bit of a meal of it?*"

Well, they all sat round a bit glum after that and look what happened. Seve Ballesteros has had two years already to make a meal of the Ryder Cup captaincy, and it's turning into the *Babette's Feast* of golf. Course after course, it just keeps on coming. This is a meal the like of which has never been seen before. Funny that the most popular Spanish phrase in common English usage is *Que sera, sera*, when it's an expression that the most famous Spaniard would rather die than use.

No, Seve is famous for many things, but not for accepting the inevitable, or selecting the line of least resistance, or sacrificing finesse in the cause of getting a move on. "I'm sure you didn't mean to change your ball just then, but even if it's in the rules, let's forget it, eh? Who wants bad feeling?" That's something Seve has never said. "Sorry, did I cough? Then take your shot again," he famously failed to say at the 1991 Ryder Cup. Other sentiments we haven't heard from Ballesteros include "Wherever we hold the next Ryder Cup will be fine by me", and also "My agent/my caddie/the American PGA and I have just agreed to disagree. Life's too short for arguing".

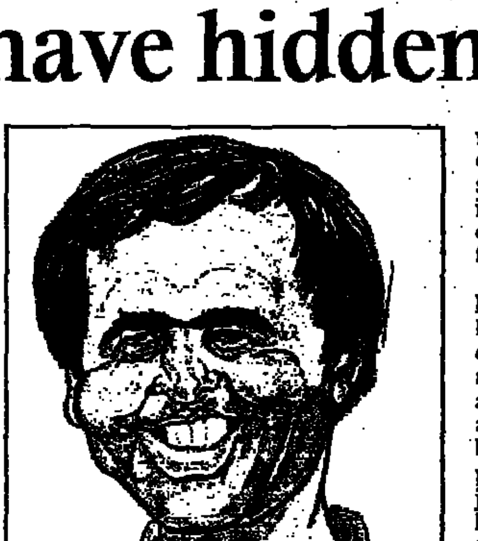
But, if Ballesteros is a drama magnet, it's to do with him being a natural genius and superstar. I ask you, how many other people in the world can make chronic backache interesting? It's only right that his Ryder Cup team quandary has been an issue now for as long as anybody can remember, and that — swept along by his endless eeny-meeny — quite sane people are now waking up in the night in a panic, with only a month to go, to draw meaningless intersecting circles on graph paper and sob, "The suspense! The suspense is killing me!"

As far as I understand it, Seve wanted to have four wild cards in his team and his request was turned down. Seve was therefore obliged to settle for two wild cards, and is now stretching the decision ("What if? But what if?") as taut as piano wire, partly to pay everybody back and partly to show what a terribly hard job it is.

And that's why we're living through history-in-the-making. "You see, he couldn't leave Nick Faldo out, could he?" we'll say to our grandchildren one day, chuckling in our rocking chairs. "Yet look at Jesper Parnevik and José María Olazábal. Three great guys and just two places. What a situation." In biblical times, of course, insufferable grandparents used to tell similar stories about the judgment of Solomon ("Just slice the baby in half!") but we mustn't forget life was cheap in those days.

Also King Solomon was never faced with anything as important as golf.

Personally, I've only had a Big Choice once, and I didn't like it much. Miserable to find myself with a deciding vote on a book award, I asked to use the toilet, and once out of sight, attempted to climb out of the window. My advice to Seve, however, is that the longer he drags this out, the more his final choice will look wrong. Has he made a meal of it? You bet. And there is much, much more to come. But can we resist being sucked into his drama? Can we ever? Dammit, we certainly can't.



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TENNIS 42

Legs go under cover
shopping · 3

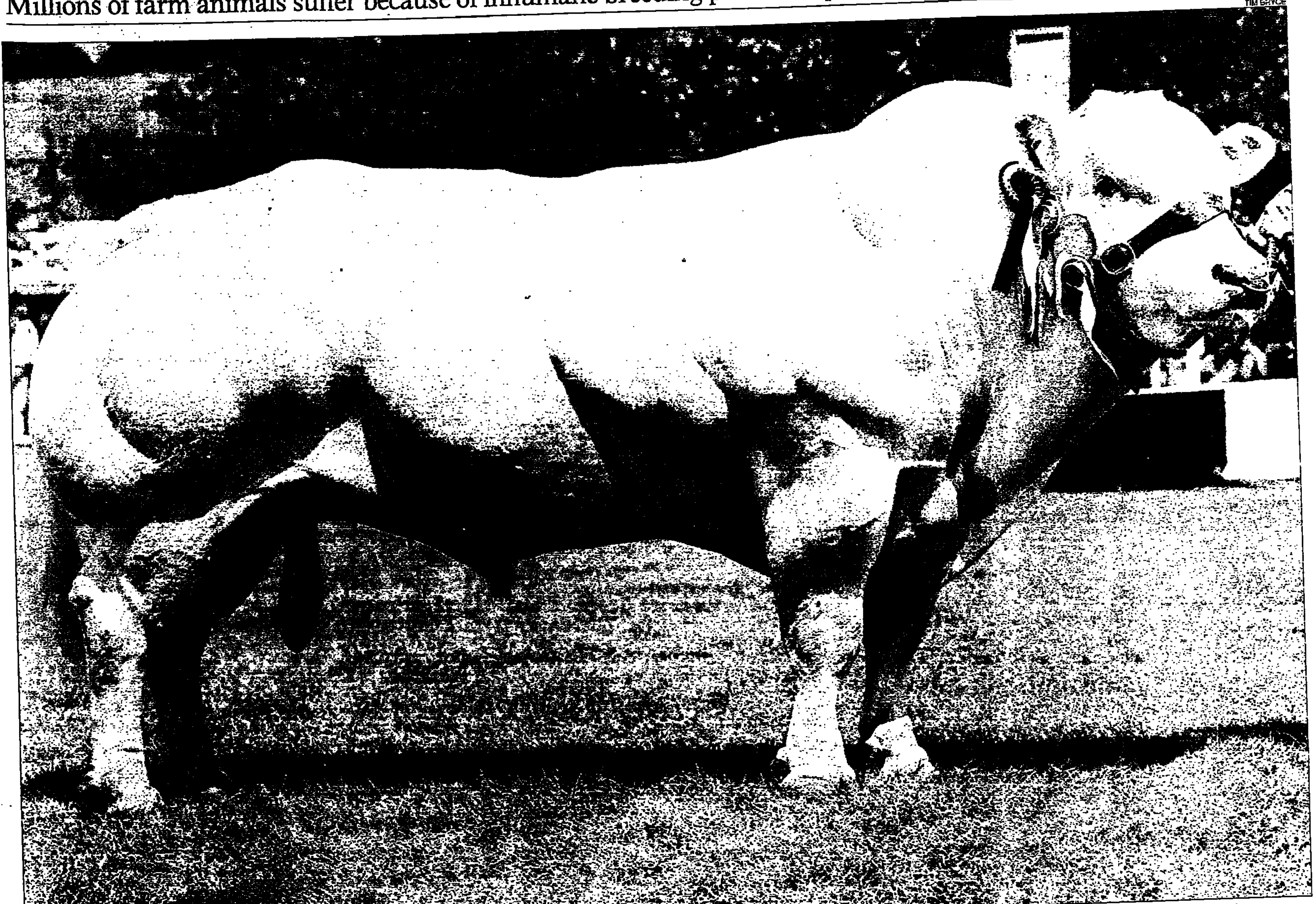
THE TIMES
weekend

Linley on his exotic Caribbean hideaway
gardening · 5

SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

Millions of farm animals suffer because of inhumane breeding policies to produce cheap food. **Colin Tudge** reports

TIM BRYCE



Oversized muscles bulging, and carrying a fifth more beef on him than is normal among beef cattle, this is the British-born Belgian Blue bull "Etourdi du Stodeur", the three-quarter tonne champion of the 1997 Royal Welsh Show

The freaks of the farmyard

The Arnold Schwarzenegger of the cattle world was on parade this week: a Belgian Blue bull; a caricature of muscle more Incredible Hulk than Michelangelo, weighing three-quarters of a tonne and with a fifth more beef on him than is normal. Typically, it was brought into the world by caesarean section.

Geneticists announced that they had identified the particular mutant gene that underpins its muscularity and, as they grow more skilled in genetic engineering, they will doubtless transfer it to other breeds.

Meat should become cheaper yet again — and farming yet more cruel. So where and when will we draw the line?

The muscles on the new Belgian Blue are hardly functional. They are not designed for movement; they are merely sacs of flesh. If children were afflicted with a mutation such as this, it would be seen as a genetic disease and a charity would be founded to root it out, just as there are charities for cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy.

The wild ancestor of Europe's cattle, the auroch, is extinct, but there are plenty of other wild cattle around which show that even the biggest are as lithe as light-heavyweight boxers. The gaur of India is two metres tall and can leap a fence of its own height almost from a standing jump. The fighting bulls of Spain, albeit domestic and small by the standards of the wild, retain the natural agility of their ancestors. But I have seen Belgian Blues, and other such pitiable beasts, at agricultural shows and they can scarcely walk. They shuffle round the show-ring, trailing their feet. To be sure, no farmer wants a bull that can leap like a stag, but neither should he breed cripples.

Such hugeness can be attained by several physiological routes. Some mutant genes simply cause certain muscles to duplicate: so-called "double-muscling" as seen, for example, in some Charolais cattle.

Such a deformity is as grotesque in its way as two heads would be, or six legs, even though it is evident only to those versed in anatomy.

RSPCA REX

Modern overweight, feeble-boned pigs slump on to their hocks, and turkeys can hardly stand

Other genes change the relative rates of growth of body tissues. In young mammals, in general, the bones develop first — which is why foals seem all legs and puppies are all knees. The muscles develop next, so that adolescents of all species tend to be skinny but agile. Fat is laid down last of all, so that mature beasts — and people — "fill out". But to the farmer, muscle is meat and fat is succulence or "finish", while bones are a dead loss. So animals bred to become muscle-bound are obese even before they have the bones to support their flesh. For this reason, modern turkeys can hardly stand, and poultry handlers often break the bones of chickens just by lifting them from the cages. When did you last see an unbroken chicken wishbone? Overweight, feeble-boned pigs that should stand on tip-toes slump on to their hocks, while hulking Belgian Blues can scarcely walk.

So should we all become vegetarians?

Well no, of course, if vegetarianism is defined in the usual mealy mouthed fashion, and allows consumption of milk and eggs. After all, no animals are treated more harshly than dairy cattle and hens.

The genetic equivalent of the benighted Belgian Blue is the super-milky Friesian. Many already give 2,000 gallons per year — about six times as much as a wild cow — but they are now being bred to provide 4,000 gallons — with a little help from genetic engineers, who are fitting them with genes to boost their growth hormone. Such monsters must be milked four times a day.

Before these beasts can produce milk at all, they must first give birth, but only about one in ten of the calves is required as a herd replacement.

What do "lacto" vegetarians imagine happens to the other nine? They are, of course, slaughtered — and, since this must be the case, it seems almost sinful just to throw their carcasses away. It is certainly profligate.

From all points of view it is surely more sensible and, indeed, ethically more justified to raise them for a couple of years on grass and then slaughter them for beef.

The ovo component of the lacto-ovo vegetarian diet is similarly flawed. Modern hens are expected to produce at least 300 eggs in a year, which is probably at least ten times as many as they would lay in the wild; and doubtless the genetic engineers will soon be extracting even more, with less food. Old hens — which these days means any that are more than about 18 months old — are knocked on the head, just like old cows.

Taken all in all, the lacto-ovo vegetarians have hardly less blood on them than the rest of us.

Should we then eschew all animal products, as vegans do? Not if we accept the principal of ethics proposed by the German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), which says that we should do nothing that we would not in conscience recommend to everyone: and that veganism worldwide would be a disaster, both agriculturally and nutritionally. Of course,

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING ....2,3 | GARDENING ....4,5 | COUNTRY LIFE .... 6 | PROPERTY ....7-9 | FEATURE ....10 | PETS ....12 | HOME LIFE.............13 | TRAVEL 15-21

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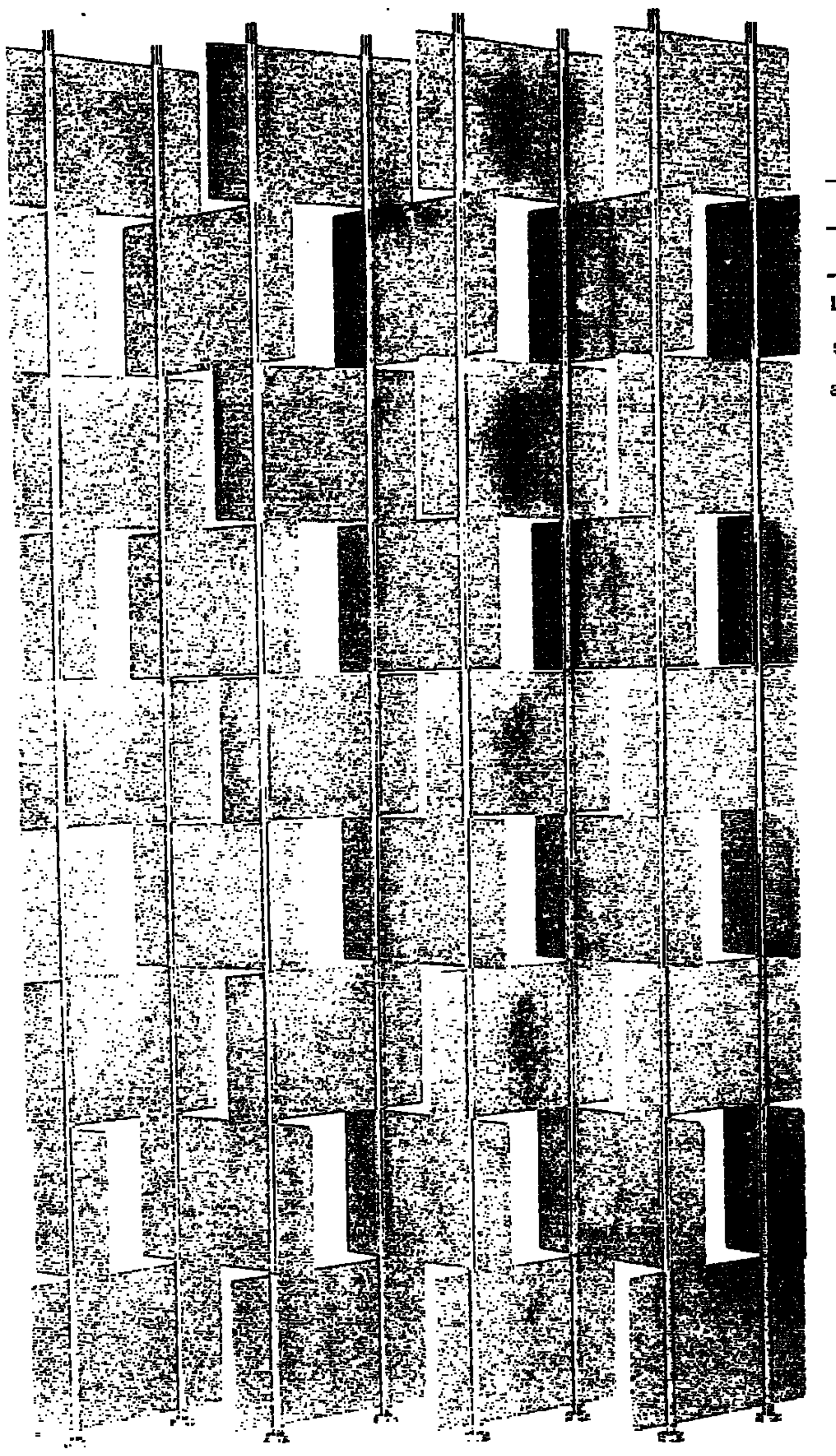
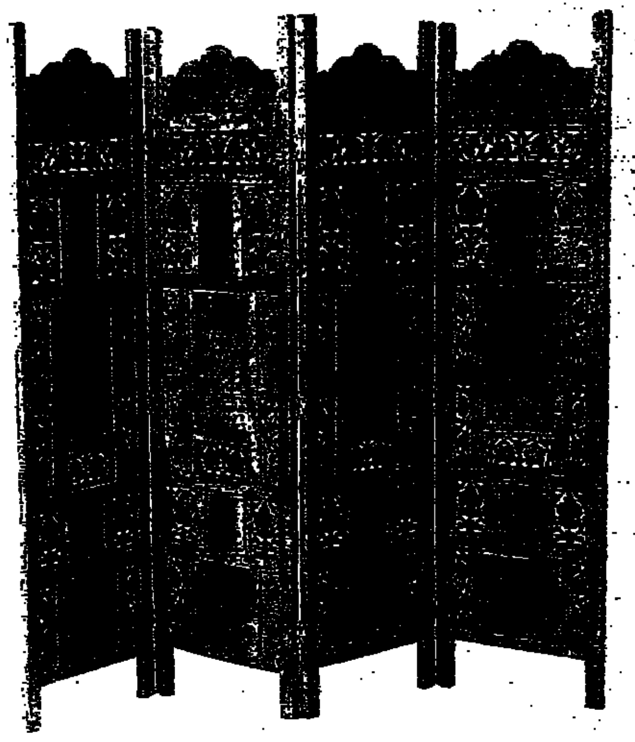
Moving screen drama

DES JENSON

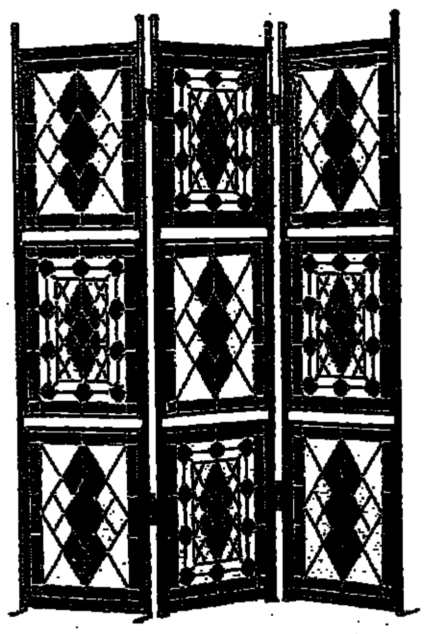
There's no easier, more flexible way to divide those open-plan spaces and create pockets of privacy or cosy zones than screening, says **Sophie Chamier**



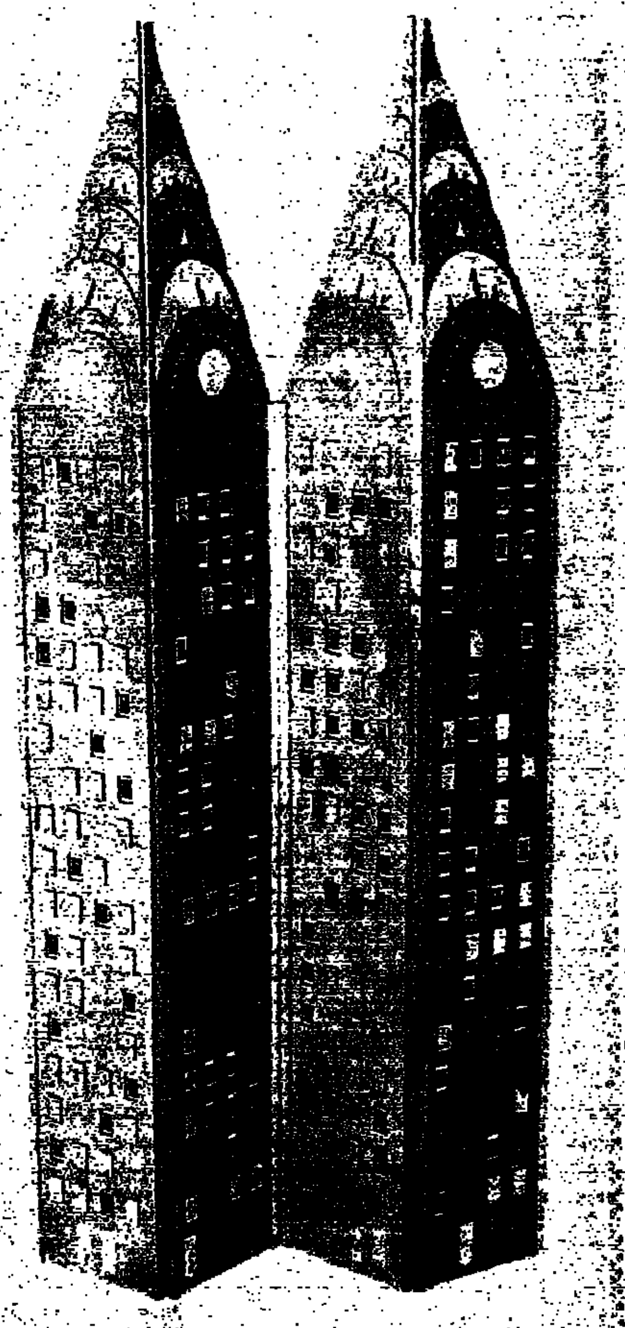
LEFT: "Eileen", a multipanelled aluminium and stainless-steel screen inspired by of the 1920s designer Eileen Gray, with articulating panels which can be added and folded. From the furniture designer Andrew Tye, £1,680 (0171-739 3451)



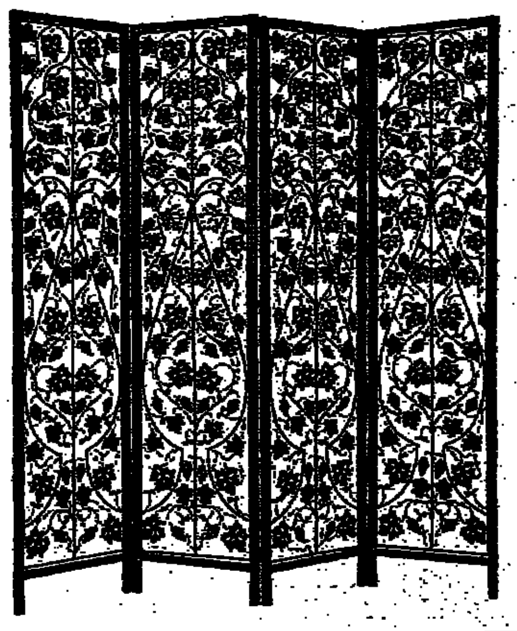
RIGHT: Made in India, a hand-carved, four-panel screen in Sheesham wood, in two sizes: 130cm (£215) and 175cm (£265). Both prices include delivery). From The India Shop, 5 Hilliers Yard, Marlborough, Wiltshire (01672 515585)



BELOW: stained-glass screen, hand-made to order in any size by Philippa Hayes (0171-738 8819); metal frames forged by Dave Freedman of Iron Man Metal Designs (0370 234961). Prices range from £200 for a small grate screen to about £950 for a three-section, folding full-height model



ABOVE: crackle-glazed finish Chrysler MDF screen, with resin windows for personal picture insertions, by Indira Fletcher-Jones and Felicity Warbrick, £850, Minx Design, 67 Great Western Studios, Great Western Road, London W9 (0171-289 5621)



LEFT: wrought-iron, four-panel fireside screen with vine-leaf and grape detail in black or green, £380, The General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, SW1 (mail order, 0171-370 0411)

'These sad, deformed creatures could be the final flourish of a grisly past'

RSPCA

Friesians can already yield 2,000 gallons of milk a year, but they are now being bred to give twice that amount

Continued from page 1

we can produce ten times or more protein or calories by growing cereal for bread than we could by feeding that same cereal to livestock and then eating the meat. But this merely proves that it is profligate, in general, to give food to animals that we might have eaten ourselves. It certainly does not demonstrate that food production based totally on plants is more efficient, taken overall, than an agriculture that also includes some animals. Livestock can be raised on land that cannot be used for crops — on steep hills, for example, or in semi-deserts — and can be fed on by-products and leftovers that human beings cannot eat, from pea stalks and straw to "tail-corn".

Of course, all-plant agriculture should be enormously productive, but no matter how bountiful it is, it would always be possible to squeeze in a few animals without substantially increasing inputs.

For most people in the world, too, animal products provide only a small proportion of the total energy and protein, and it may look, at first sight, as if they could do without them altogether. Yet that small proportion is crucial. Animal protein is of high quality and animal products in general are a vital source of recondite micronutrients, such as calcium and zinc. A worldwide policy of veganism (assuming such a thing were feasible) would sign many millions of death warrants.

Human beings are natural omnivores and, as such — since hunting on a globally significant scale is an obvious non-starter — we are effectively *obliged* to keep livestock. But this cannot mean that we should give ourselves *carte blanche* to treat them without respect. We should surely contrive to raise farm animals as kindly as possible and then, after a life as fulfilled as we can make it, to dispatch them quickly and efficiently.

The key is to find out what animals prefer, and then to match the husbandry to their preferences. Although it may seem hard to read the minds of cattle, pigs and poultry, much of the necessary research has already been carried out. Notably, the late David Wood-gush at Edinburgh University in the late 1980s showed that sows, when given the opportunity, build nests of straw for their piglets and raise them in family groups while the boars, commonly considered to be murderous, stand by in happy attendance. This is the kind of husbandry we ought to encourage, and livestock should be bred accordingly. Berkshire pigs, for example, were traditionally selected and bred largely for their mothering skills — not to grow so quickly that they are obliged to stand more like bears than pigs.

At Oxford University, Marian Stamp Dawkins reveals the preferences of chickens by measuring the efforts they are prepared to make to achieve particular goals. She has found that they will work hard to find their way to a nestbox to lay their eggs. This matters more to them than the occasional sniff of grass that currently qualifies the farmers to sell them as "free range". In short, it is possible to discover what animals like and to treat them accordingly.

But meat, eggs and milk produced by truly humane methods of husbandry would be expensive. Present-day factory methods reduce the costs by several-fold — perhaps in some cases even ten-fold. Breeding brings the costs down still further: a Belgian Blue that packs hundreds of pounds of meat on to a skeleton like a clothes horse would almost certainly eat less than a primitive bull that was lean and lithe.

Rate of growth is even more important than the disposition of the flesh. If animals can grow twice as quickly, the throughput is doubled and the profit increases even more, since the fixed costs are spread over more beasts.

Every incremental rise in rate of growth, however, will mean that the meat will be cheaper for the consumer. Even so, if the cruelty simply led to greater profits for the food producers, we would protest more vehemently than we do, because then we could take the conventional snipe at the fat cats. But cheap food in Britain is perceived to serve a social purpose. It has achieved almost a religious status: a symbol of our enlightenment, of our innate humanity to our fellow human beings. Henry IV of France wanted to see a chicken in every peasant's pot and, though no one bothers with pots any more, there is poultry galore on every barbecue — and pork chops and beefsteaks as well.

In short we *justify* the cruelty by pretending that without it our fellow citizens would suffer more. Well-fed members of the middle class like me, who suggest that livestock farming should be humane and, therefore, that meat should be expensive, are seen merely to be effete.

ASPECT

FAUN

Above: the genetic engineers call it a geep — a cross between a goat and a sheep: a tough, woolly milker
Right: broiler chickens are reared for meat, not eggs, and can suffer horrendous injuries to their bones

But what a fake that argument is. Britain is a rich country, and if there are people here who cannot afford meat, then this is because we choose, as a matter of policy, to tolerate poverty. Cheap meat is the palliative; we ameliorate the injustice to human beings by being even more cruel to farm animals. What kind of morality is that? Then again, even the most dyed-in-the-wool champions of the free markets acknowledge that the economy of agriculture has to be manipulated, if only because the product is so vital, while the productivity is prey to factors that are beyond control and yet are potentially devastating — notably the weather. Even in Margaret Thatcher's day, Britain's farming was subject to the entire gamut of state interventions — quotas, grants, subsidies, support buying and all the rest. The alternative would be to allow farmers to go broke at every sneeze of climate and that would benefit nobody.

Because all the apparatus of intervention is in place, and any ideological objection would be fatuous, it would be relatively straightforward — if we cared enough — simply to outlaw cruelty, and to subsidise farmers and breeders to behave humanely. Most farmers would be delighted to be given the chance. Unless we call a halt, the cruelties will multiply. Genetic changes that have relied on chance mutation, and took several generations to consolidate, will in the future be achievable within a few months by genetic engineering. Indeed, future engineers will be able to alter animals in ways that are without precedent by inducing the required genetic changes at will. If profit is to remain our sole criterion, then the "Schwarzenegger" bull could be the symbol of the future. But we could go down the route of humanity, and then these sad, deformed creatures would represent the final flourish of the grisly past.

You pays your money and you takes your choice.

● *Colin Tudge is a Research Fellow of the Centre for Philosophy at the London School of Economics.*

ENGINEERED ANIMALS

BEEF CATTLE:
Many are now so misshapen that caesarean deliveries are inevitable. They also suffer from lameness

PIGS:
Fast growth rates mean that legs are unable to keep up with the rest of the body. They suffer from painful joints

CHICKENS:
The modern broiler reaches its slaughter weight in just six weeks. Its bones are so feeble that they break on contact; it also suffers heart disease

DAIRY COWS:
Today's cow is producing ten times as much milk as her calf would have drunk; selective breeding is likely to double the output

TURKEYS:
Selective breeding means turkeys are so fleshy that they cannot physically mate. Artificial insemination is the only answer

EXPERTS SAY

■ Donald Broom, Colleen Macleod Professor of Animal Welfare at Cambridge University's Veterinary School, on rearing animals so that their bodies are growing too fast for their legs: "It is like a child who is nine years old in weight having to stand on the legs, say, of a five-year-old."

On turkeys: "It is unreasonable that almost all members of a widely used breeding line are unable to perform a normal biological function like mating."

■ Professor John Webster, head of Bristol University's Veterinary School, on broilers: "It is absolutely not right that animals in their first few weeks of life should be experiencing heart disease ... should be crippled by their breeding."

■ The Farm Animal Welfare Council reported leg problems among broilers on nearly every farm it visited. Another study found that 90 per cent of intensively reared broilers had a detectable abnormality in their gait.

هكذا من الأص

drama

Don't put away your summer dresses just yet; they will be perfect with slacks, **Heath Brown** writes

Women who wear the trousers too

Navy wool dress, £300, Strenesse, 6 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-259 5921) Metallic grey trousers, £160, Plein Sud, as before; Harrods, SW1 (0171-730 1234)

If you are shy about your legs and dare not even think about wearing the new micro-mini styles — or even an above-the-knee hemline — then this season's trend for teaming trousers with dresses is for you.

It is a simple combination that takes its influence from Asian cultures. Diana, Princess of Wales and Jemima Khan have worn the look (albeit out of respect for cultural mores) and have influenced a new wave of Eastern styling that is taking on a modern Western edge.

Designers Pierce Fionda, Copperwheat Blundell and Dries van Noten have all included this style in their collections, with sleek and elegant combinations, as well as those that are hard and streetwise.

Alongside these full dress-and-trouser composites there is a range of separates on the racks that, with a little ingenuity, can be mixed and matched with your own favourites. .

Whether you choose a pair of soft, flowing pants from Marks & Spencer with a Sportmax tunic-style dress or slimline Morgan trousers coupled with a modern Warehouse frock, if you follow a few basic guidelines it will be a combination that is timeless, ageless and will suit most body shapes. It is a perfect style to conceal larger hips and thighs, although it is important to choose the dress lengths and trouser styles carefully.

If you are tall or have long legs, you should go for wider-flowing palazzo trousers, with a dress hem stopping around the knee, which will accentuate a slim silhouette but not make you look too lanky. For the shorter frame, trousers are best kept slightly slimmer, with the dress stopping well above the knee, at about thigh length. This will avoid your legs appearing too short.

For the fuller frame, it is important to keep clear of mixing colours too drastically. Darker pants with a lighter top will shorten and widen your appearance, while a darker dress will hide a fuller bust but may be disproportionate to your legs. Darker shades overall are better and will disguise more.

If you want more tonal variation, block colours, in slightly differing tones, are good — light beige with camel, red with pink or silvery blue. Or, for a more Bohemian look, try mixing dramatic patterns.

Dresses to choose for daywear are best loose and flowing, in lighter fabrics such as chiffon. For evening, team floaty, luxurious dresses with matching or jersey trousers.

ABOVE: leather strapless tube dress, £49.99, Morgan, selected branches nationwide (0171-383 2888). Soft leather trousers, £120, Plein Sud, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-487 4484). Silver torque, £14.95, Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161). Black suede ankle-tie T-bar shoes, £241, Maud Frizon, Mimi Low, 309 King's Road, SW3 (0171-349 9699)

LEFT: chocolate fine-knit dress, £35, Marks & Spencer, selected branches nationwide (0171-935 4422). Tweed trousers, £129, Sportmax, Fenwick, as before

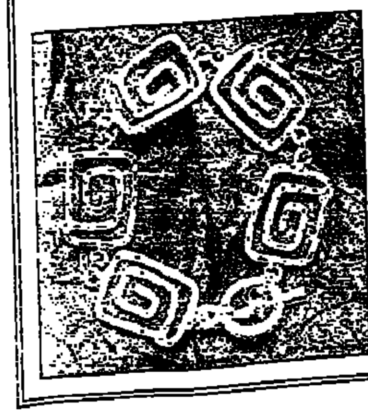
BELOW RIGHT: red jersey side-ruched dress, £40; matching trousers, £35, Warehouse, branches nationwide (0171-278 3491). Black T-bar shoes, as before. Gold and red stone drop necklace, £59; earrings, £49, Erikson Beaman, Fenwick, as before

Photographs: **Richard Burns.** Hair and make-up: **Michelle Marsh** using Hard Candy Styling **Amandip Uppal**

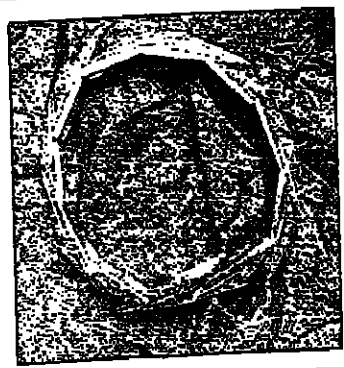
THREE OF A KIND

A THIN, silver bangle with a hint of decoration is a perfect accessory for this exotic layered look. Here are three of the best. HB

RIGHT: chunky bangle, £24.95, Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)



LEFT: bracelet with square coils, £4.99, Accessorise branches (0171-313 3000)



RIGHT: Hand-made arrowpoint bracelet with zirconia stones, £1100, Slim Barrett (0171-354 9393)

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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q **We have a 'Guinee' climbing rose on the sheltered, sunny wall of the garage. In two years it has produced only two flowers (beautiful velvety dark red). Last winter we moved it to a new position, but it continues to try to make one long leader, even if I nip out the leading shoot. Just one flower appeared on a low, weak shoot. What can I do?** — R. Vanderspar, Okehampton, Devon.

A *Did you cut it down* low when you first bought it? That helps to get roses off to a good start, with several stems from the base. I would cut the rose down next spring, to 2ft-3ft, and force it to produce side branches. Keep these as a fan on the wall. Nipping out a soft tip on a vigorous climbing rose usually just produces another soft tip from a nearby bud, whereas cutting hard back into older wood stops it in its tracks, and its energy looks for other ways out, as new, main shoots. The following year you should have flowers on the side shoots which come off the long stems.

Q **Earlier this year I was given a plumbago I planted against a house wall earlier this year is now a thriving bush 3ft across and spreading, with pretty pale blue flowers. However, I have a feeling that it is not hardy. What can I do to preserve it?** — W.J. Raven, Chester.

A *Plumbago capensis* is from South Africa and not hardy. It is a little late in the year to take cuttings now, so when the weather cools down next month, soak the roots heavily one day, and dig it up with a big rootball and pot it up. A 12in-pot should suffice and, if needs be, you can reduce the roots with secateurs, also the top. Put it in a cool, shady, wind-free place for a couple of weeks to settle down. It may lose a few leaves but it will survive. Then it can go by a sunny window indoors, where it will flower far on into the autumn. This is a rampant plant best grown in a greenhouse border, where it has room to flail its arms, and where the sticky seedheads can fall without sticking to everyone and everything that passes by. Be sure to keep it cool and dry throughout winter.

Q **I plan to overwinter my geraniums in a warm, dark cupboard. Is this possible, and when do I bring them in?** — Roger Payne, Bromley, Kent.

A Lift them next month *before the frosts start* and pot them up in trays or individually. However, you cannot keep them warm and dark; if they are warm, they will try to grow and die for lack of light. Put them somewhere cool (40F-45F, 5C-7C) with a little light — a north window, porch or light garage is fine. Keep them quite dry or they will try to grow; they must stand still and "hibernate". When spring comes, gradually give a little water, then increase the water and light as growth starts.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

Sprinklers are efficient, so why are water companies holding gardeners to ransom, asks **Stephen Anderton**

TONY STONE

Children love playing with lawn sprinklers, but water companies take a dim view of such water-wasting antics. Lawns are not worth watering anyway because they can always be revived

Gunning for the sprinklers

As far as I know, Diana, Princess of Wales has not yet joined the campaign to do away with garden sprinklers. But did you know that Southern Water recently held an amnesty in which people who were harbouring sprinklers in their garden sheds and attics could hand them in without retribution? And to encourage the offending owners to come clean, the company offered a free hand-held spray gun to every penitent.

Well now, this fascinates me. At the end of a lousy wet June, Hozelock, the sprinkler and irrigation manufacturer, was reported in *The Times* to be laying off workers, because of slow demand for its products. Now, in August, we hear that Hozelock made a deal with Southern Water to supply the spray guns for its amnesty.

Ten Thousand spray guns, worth £11.59 each, were given away in less than two weeks, according to a report in *Horticulture Week*, knocking the bottom out of the local retailers' market.

Southern Water's community relations executive, David Williams, says the promotion "brought home the message that sprinklers waste water".

Do we gardeners accept that? Not absolutely, I hope. It is fair to say that nobody would ever stand holding a *hosepipe for as long as he or* she would allow a sprinkler to run. Boredom is the greatest of all savers of water. This is why water authorities will permit people to stand and direct a hose when they have banned sprinklers.

The trouble with all this is that it assumes everyone has the same water pressure. I have friends for whom holding and directing a hose pipe is like trying to resist the embraces of a randy mamba: the pressure is terrific. And I have gardened in places where the *pressure was* so poor that an oscillating sprinkler simple refused to oscillate.

For a gardener to be hit by a blanket sprinkler ban when *pressure is locally so poor* would be hard indeed. When pressure is poor, it is a struggle to water those plants which genuinely need it. (I am *talking about flowering plants* here, not lawns, which can always be revived and are not worth *watering*.)

If I have an argument with sprinkler design, it is that they are all made with good pressure in mind. Most oscillating sprinklers under good pressure will raise an arc 8ft-10ft high, and under high pressure even higher. They will also move backwards and forwards much faster. Under low pressure they have only one virtue: if they cannot water a large area quickly, at least they can apply water gently to one plant.

Even where pressure is good, you can always turn the tap down, so that flow is *reduced* and the arc is small. This is the way to water when it is in short supply. An oscillating trickle left under a shrub will put the water on the *roots where it is needed*, at a speed which means it all soaks in where it is applied with no *run off, wasting no water on* the foliage nor pulling down adjacent herbaceous stems.

But it still takes time. A sprinkler set really low can take half an hour at least to do its job of soaking a rootball. Measure the output if you like, and see how long the hose takes to fill a couple of buckets at that setting.

Southern Water may feel it has struck a blow for its public image by encouraging people not to use sprinklers, but will the hand-held spray gun do the same job? I think not, unless people are very patient about how long they will stand over a particular plant.

It is all too easy with a spray *gun to wet the surface or the* top few inches, but never soak the roots. And that, as all gardeners know, is not good for the plants. It encourages surface rooting, which compounds the problems of drought, and it still leaves the plant thirsty. Give me a sprinkler *turned down low any day*.

Unfortunately, most oscillating sprinklers grind to a halt at very low pressures. I found Hozelock's as bad as any. *But* this year, *Hozelock* has brought out a new sprinkler, the Duo20, which is designed to operate at lower pressures. Just when the company is promoting spray guns it has got the sprinkler right.

The Duo20 has a device which, when pressure is low, diverts more water from the output nozzles to the drive mechanism, to ensure it keeps moving. I have tried it in several gardens, and it does *seem to work. Whether* it will continue to do so in old age I am not sure. Oscillating sprinklers, which are only just managing to turn, will sometimes stick because of roughness in the drive gears, or a flake of limescale in the gears. Then it is necessary, and simple, to open the sprinkler and to let the water run through freely to wash out any irritating particles.

Better still, the Duo20 has two kinds of nozzle. On one side is the usual arc of tall jets, in variable number. On the other are five gentler spray jets, which put out a blanket of *spray over a much narrower* area. Using this side of the sprinkler on low pressure or with the tap turned down, you have an excellent means of delivering water to a small area of garden.

SPRAY AND SPRINKLE FACTFILE

Duo20 sprinkler

- **The new Hozelock Duo20 sprinkler, which is designed to operate at lower pressures and has two kinds of nozzle, costs £34.99 rrp and is available from good garden centres (W.H. Smith Do It All and Sainsbury's Homebase).**
- **The Hozelock handspray offered free by *Southern Water* was the Spraygun with rose head model. It costs £11.59 rrp.**
- **For further details call Hozelock, telephone 01844 292002**

Devon's cream of rare trees

■ Killerton, Broadclyst, Devon (01392 881345).

Eight miles north of Exeter via B3181, fork left on to B3185. Open daily until Nov 2 (except Tues), 11am-5.30pm. £3.20, children £1.60.

The estate of more than 5,000 acres of breathtaking Devon countryside surrounds a country house and a garden of distinction, historically and horticulturally. Great names have been involved at Killerton, including John Veitch, of the legendary Devon nursery family, during the late 18th century, and William Robinson nearly a century later. Most of all, Killerton is favoured by tree and shrub enthusiasts. The garden's sloping site displays the formidable collection to superb effect and there are many rare *treasures: one* of England's largest tulip trees and an avenue of some of the first wellingtonias planted in Britain during the last century. There is a succession of spring and summer-flowering trees, such as rare stewartias, and an enormous collection of rhododendrons.

■ Titsey Place, Limpsfield, Surrey (01883 712124).

Off A25 to Limpsfield, left off High Street into Blue House Lane, right into Water Lane. Open Wed and Sun until Sept 28, 1-5pm. £2, children £1.

Considering that you can watch the traffic sweeping along the M25 from many parts of the garden, Titsey retains a sense of serenity and, if you look from the front of the house across meadows with grazing cattle sloping up to the wooded ridge of the North Downs, you can easily forget where you are. House and garden slumbered for generations before recent restoration by the Titsey Foundation and opening to the public. Around the house the lawns are shaded by trees, and at one *end* the grass is broken by double herbaceous borders leading away, with a rose garden to one side. The best surviving feature of the older landscape is the water garden with two lakes, one feeding the other through a cascade and crossed by a stone bridge. But the highlight of the restoration is the walled kitchen garden on a sloping site above the house, sheltered and sun-catching, with glasshouses and fruit and vegetable planting to recall the Victorian original.

■ Shandy Hall, Coxwold, North Yorkshire (01347 868465).

Off A19 between York and Thirsk to Easingwold and then Coxwold. Open daily (except Sat) to end Sept, 11am-4.30pm. £1.50.

Literary connections and beautifully arranged border planting are the two prides of Shandy Hall at this time of year. During the 18th century, it was home to Laurence Sterne, the enigmatic author of *Tristam Shandy*, and the charming house has been preserved to give a sense of his period. Beyond the out-buildings, low stone walls enclose one area with herbaceous borders around a central lawn. Once your have savoured the view of the North York Moors and the romantic Byland Abbey, the arrangement of the plants merits attention. On another side, gnarled apple trees lead to the similarly enclosed but more secluded Old Garden, where old-fashioned roses are underplanted with geraniums and other perennials. From here the quarry garden lies across a meadow, which rewards the visitor with a picture of naturalistic gardening throughout the year.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

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BRIAN CARTER

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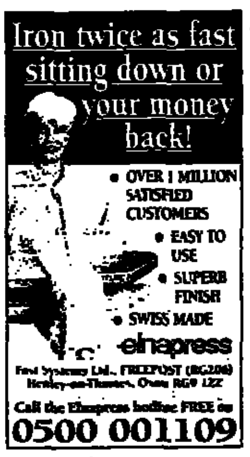

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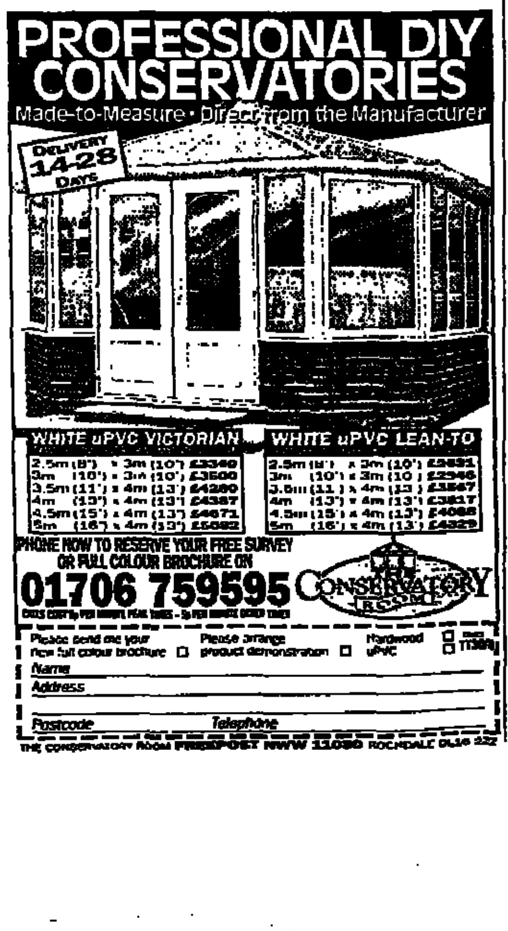

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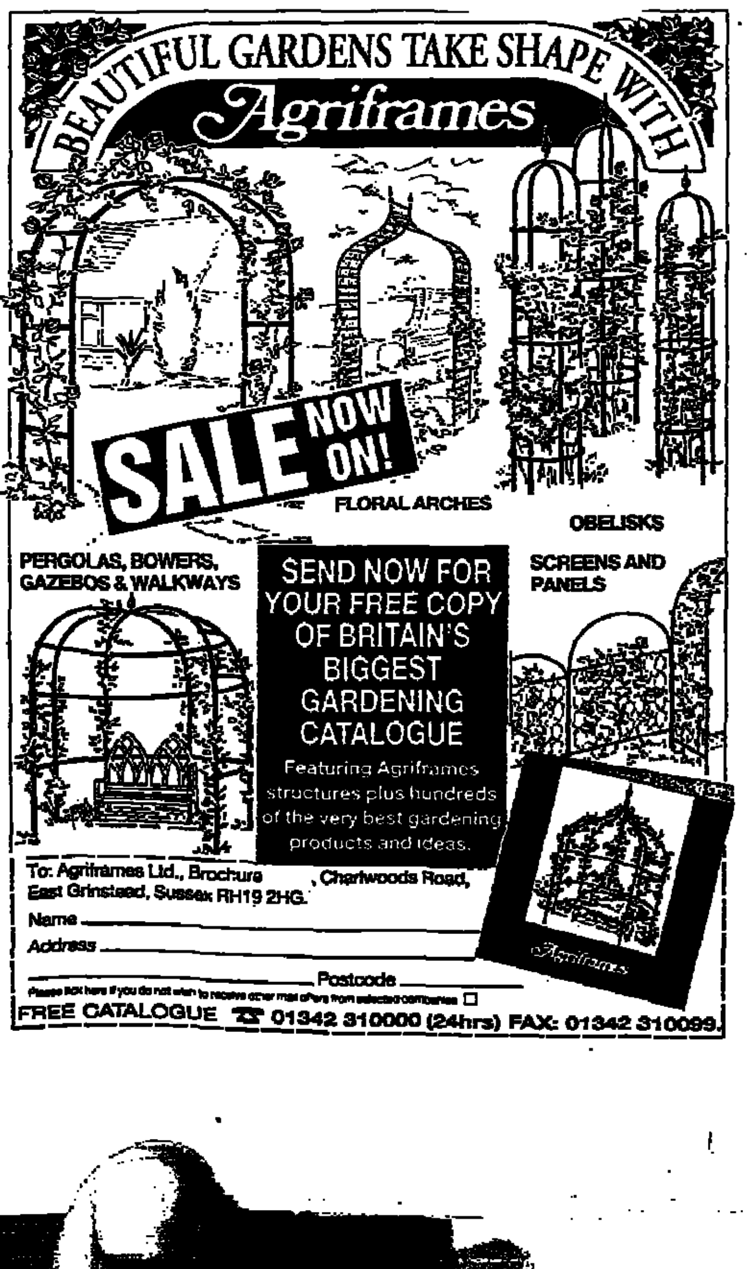

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Blue blood, green thumbs

ME AND MY GARDEN: VISCOUNT LINLEY

CAMERA PRESS

Viscount and Viscountess Linley at home in Mustique

CAMERA PRESS

The gardens are not particularly flowery, and fruit rather than floral arrangements decorate the house as "the wind rips flowers from the vases"

The price of tomatoes *should not* bother someone with a pad in the Caribbean whose father-in-law owns a vast amount of property and whose aunt is the Queen. But Viscount Linley still blanches at the price of tomatoes on Mustique: £5/lb. So he took seed from England last year and tried growing them and basil, also from seed. The former failed, the latter thrived.

So *far his attempts* at self-sufficiency on Mustique, in the house he and his wife, Serena, were given by Princess Margaret ten years ago, have had mixed results. His pawpaw did so-so last year; it produced a single fruit, which ripened *only* when the Linleys had left. On the other hand, their limes, tangerines and oranges thrive in an area protected from the high wind, a constant factor on Mustique.

While *there, they eat mainly* chicken, rice and fruit — the locals' diet. Lobsters are almost fished *out* and are eaten only on special occasions.

Lord Linley's gardening skills may only be at *development* stage, but his pedigree in such matters is impeccable. On one side of his family are the Queen Mother ("my grandmother knows all the Latin names") and Princess Margaret (also a hot gardener). On the other are his father, the Earl of Snowdon, and his ancestor Ludwig Messel, who created the beautiful West Sussex garden of Nymans, boasting magnolias, possibly the first heath garden and a fabulous topiary.

But his forebears' skill and passion seem to have escaped Lord Linley: "Unless you have your own garden, it is difficult to appreciate gardening in a way you will remember."

When he took over his mother's house on Mustique, he decided to turn the ten-acre, salt-drenched landscape around the house into a garden. "I had never planted a thing in my life. We had to start from scratch. The first thing we *did was to put in a* watering system. It is an American one designed for *golf courses. It is the one used* by everybody else on the island, but mine is the only *one that* worked."

Water has to be bought from the Mustique Water Company *and most of it is desalinated* seawater. A thick layer of shredded coconut-shell fibre helps to check evaporation, and the ground is given a fillip by artificial fertiliser.

Before starting work on the garden, Lord Linley "drew a vague plan" that incorporated his mother's swimming pool, "which I regret". In fact, he has made the pool an elegant focal point.

"From the house, as you look out, I have designed the view so that you see only white and green. Then, on the terraces down from the house and on either side, the bright colours begin. There is so much to focus on from the house that I didn't want colour there, too," he says.

Views from Les Jollies Eaux open down a flight of steps to the pool, across the tops of tropical trees and the spiky spheres of agaves to the sea and tiny *islands* beyond. Now there is grass where once was brown scrub, the tough, thick-*leaved type typical of the* Caribbean. And Lord Linley has planted three types of *frangipani, including a white-*flowered variety native to Mustique, and Hawaiian frangipani, which has creamy *flowers.*

It is not a very flowery garden, and floral arrange*ments rarely decorate the* house; pineapples, mangoes and bananas are used instead. "*The wind is so strong here* that flowers get ripped out of their vases," says Lord Linley.

From the sparkling blue *water of the swimming pool,* looking back up a long flight of steps to the long, low, white*washed home that Princess* Margaret built on land given to her as a wedding present, a "stick tree" waves bamboo-like wands 30ft into the air.

Lord Linley has designed and built two pavilions in the garden "*from anything that* was about — that is why I made the pillars for one pavil*ion from moulded* concrete". One, on a headland planted with a few cacti and agaves, is a simple, rectangular, wall-less structure with a double hammock hanging beneath a cedar shingle roof. "The ham*mock is so comfortable that it* is extremely difficult to get people out of it."

The other pavilion contains the master bedroom and bathroom, built on the foundations of the old garage, away from the main house. Folly building is *in the blood: Lord* Snowdon built one in his small garden in London.

Lord Linley tried planting palms by taking washed-up coconuts from the beach, but *that did not work. So he* planted cabbage palms for their attractive red nuts.

Fired by enthusiasm for his newly made garden, Lord Linley then invited a specialist *in tropical gardening to view* his work. Crushingly, the only plant that held the expert's *attention was a "weed" that* had gone unnoticed — a rare orchid with long white petals *in an uncultivated part of the* garden.

Country Life magazine com*missioned* Lord Linley to make some furniture for its garden at the Chelsea Flower Show *this year. Sturdy* English oak tables and seats that can be left outside year round *resulted, with urn-shaped dec*orations designed to have cushions looped over them so they stay in place at the seat backs. *This garden* activity has so enthused Lord Linley that he is now a member of the Royal Horticultural Society and a regular reader of *The Garden*. He and his wife visit gardens often: his favourites are Hidcote in Gloucestershire *and Heale in Wiltshire.*

Now, at his apartment on the third-floor of a converted *old schoolhouse in London,* he has to make do with a terrace *the size of a dining-room table, on which he keeps 18th-centu*ry terracotta pots bursting with blue hydrangeas, minia*ture white roses and jasmine* — all of which come indoors when there is a dinner party to *decorate the table.*

It has taken a while for the little boy who used to spend *his time playing in the garden* at his grandmother's house, Royal Lodge, to catch up with *his latent passion.* "I loved the rhododendrons and azaleas in my grandmother's garden. *Some of the colours are garish.* I suppose, but I love the smell of azaleas."

JANE OWEN

● *Les Jollies Eaux on Mustique can be rented for holidays: ring Lord Linley's office on 0171-730 7300*

- Potatoes with telltale blotches of blight should have the haulms cut off and burnt. Do not put them on the compost heap because the infection will spread.
- Summer-sown cabbage, *broccoli and kale can be* lifted from seed rows or pots and transplanted into their *final positions. Water well.*
- *Ensure* that all vegetables have plenty of water, especially runner beans, celery, *Florence fennel and* courgettes.
- Start dividing irises over the next few weeks. The bearded border hybrids of all sizes are best divided up into individual fat rhizomes. The beardless species such as *chrysographes, forrestii, foetidissima* and *versicolor* are best broken up into small clumps of about four to five rhizomes.
- *Maintain dead-heading* of daisy flowers such as helenium, dahlias, cosmos and Shasta daisies (now known as *Leucanthemum x superbum*, not *Chrysanthemum maximum*). Removal of the spent heads and a length of stem will allow a better second crop.
- *Keep picking sweet peas* for indoors to ensure a late supply of flowers.
- Take seed heads off lilies (unless seed is required) to strengthen bulbs for next year. Species paeonies, such as *veitchii* and *mlokosewitschii*, which can be grown from seed, are producing ripe seed now. Collect it as the pods split, before it falls.
- Straggling plants of *diascia may have the older* flowering stems cut back hard to produce a stronger *display into the autumn.*
- Complete the clipping of box bushes and hedges.
- Christmas cacti which have been resting dry on their sides in the shade can be set upright again in full light. *Gradually reintroduce* water.

Complete the clipping of box and bush hedges

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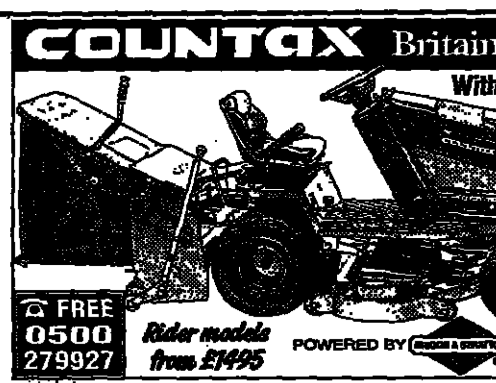
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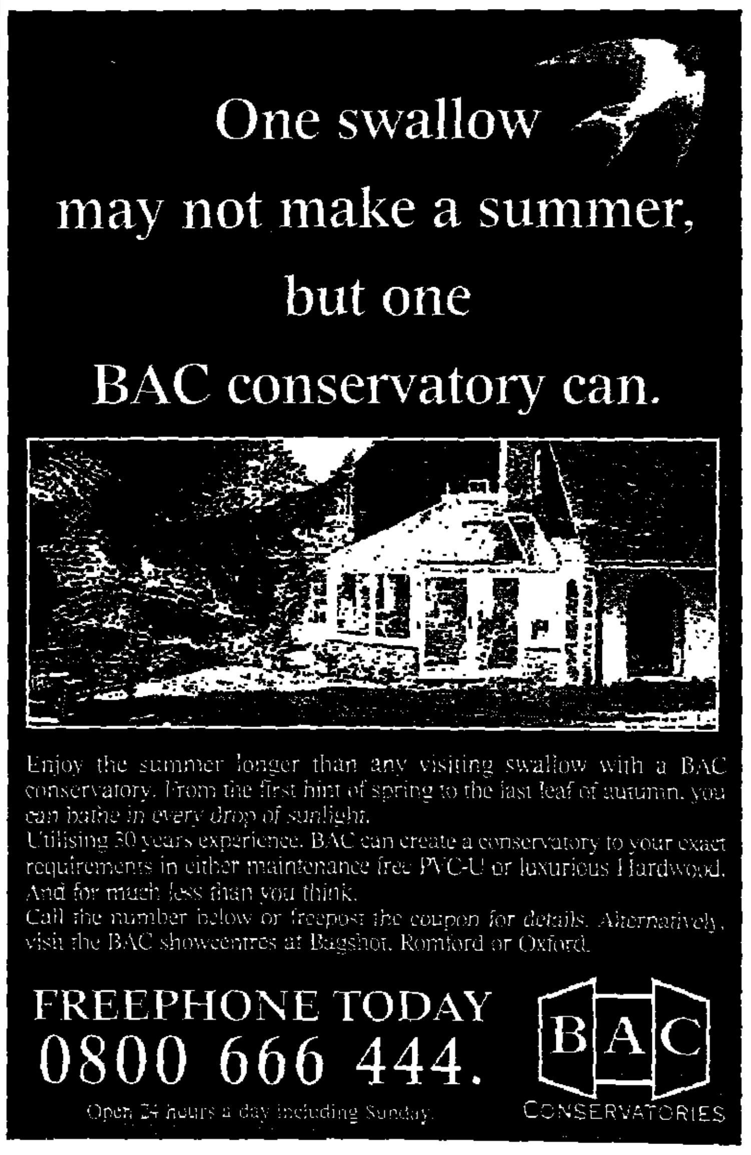
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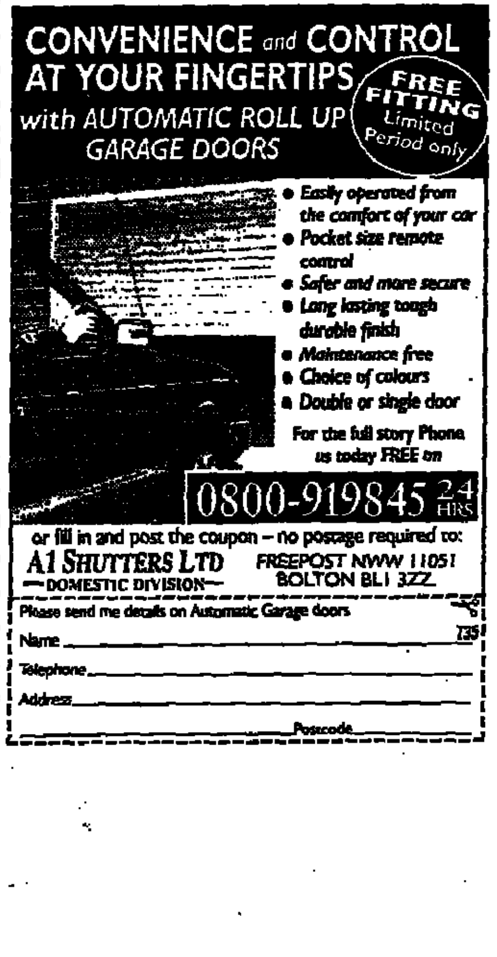
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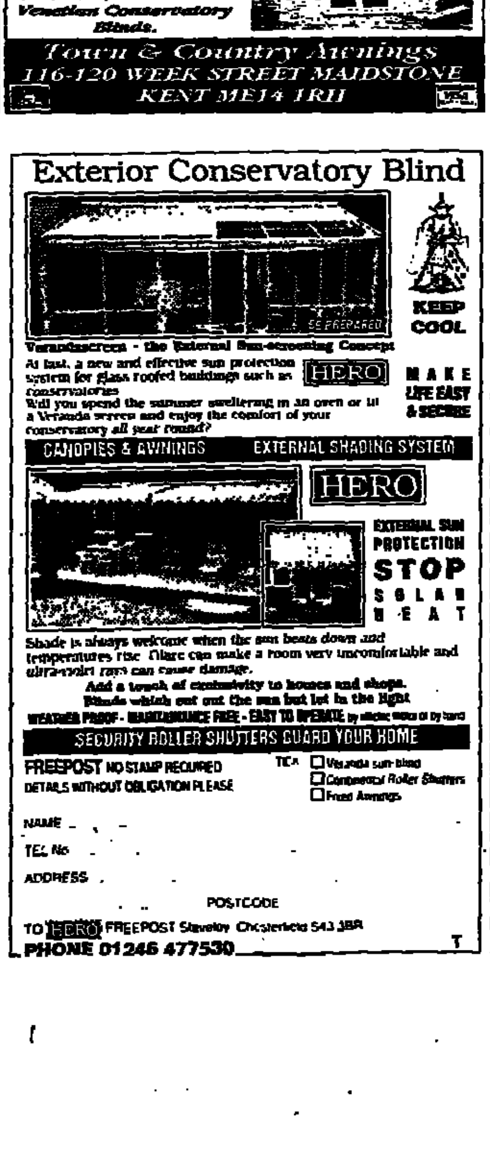
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مكتبة الأهرام

That Millennium Dome plan: if only the Government could think more like good farmers and less like cheque-happy parvenus...

Here's the answer, Mr Mandelson

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

I suppose it is none of my business, but if Mr Mandelson had rung me first before firing off contracts hither and thither for the roof of his Millennium Dome, I could have saved him a lot of trouble and embarrassment.

If only he had told me he wanted to get his exhibition under cover cheaply and quickly I could have told him he had no need of either German or American hi-tech operators: he should have rung a farmer. This is what farmers do all the time: flinging covers over things, keeping out the rain, taking them down when they've finished so that you would never know they'd been there. They offer cheap, speedy and environmentally sound solutions to transient problems, as a spin-doctor might put it.

I can imagine the scene down at Greenwich: architects and engineers tapping on computers, working out stresses, loads, environmental impact assessments. But put two old farmers in their place, and I bet they would look at each other and say: "We'll put a tilt over it" (farmer-speak for a tarpaulin). One would warn of wind, to which the other would reply: "There's some old tyres in the back o' the barn. We'll spread them around a bit. That'll keep damned thing down." To which his mate would reply: "But they say that's goin' to be a hell of a lot of people there and they'll all want somewhere to sit." The first farmer would pause, then turn thoughtfully to his son and ask: "How many bales o' straw we got left in the barn?"

Fanciful? Of course. But the point is that when something needs improvising and time is short, there is no one more experienced than a farmer. Some have refined this skill to the level of artistry usually seen in the best magicians. A farmer can take an old bedstead, three plastic bags and a sheep hurdle and come up with anything from a lambing shelter to a makeshift grain silo in 15 minutes. I have seen it done. The only difference between farmers and magicians is that the sorcerers have wands while the farmers have old bale string. And any farmer who cannot perform this magic should be held in the greatest suspicion. Beware the farm where all problems are solved by a signature on a cheque, not by application of the mind. The farms where all the gates are newly hung, the buildings clad in fresh asbestos, the roofs made new with plastic-coated sheeting are ones to treat with caution: the culture of tidy, timid industrialisation has got a firm hold. Or else the chap is a gentleman parvenu, playing at it.

Instead, look for the farmer who has taken half a dozen discarded telegraph poles, a pile of redundant railway sleepers and a heap of old corrugated iron, and built his cows a palace. He has not done it because he is a tight-fisted curmudgeon who will not spend an unneccesary penny, but because he has the inventiveness to look at what is required and to see the solution lying around him.

I have been both kinds of farmer in my time. I can remember, when first keeping pigs, how I thought the only housing worthy of them was bought ready-made: built of steel sheeting bent into an arc, boarded front and back with a sliding door and ventilation slots. I bought one for £150-odd. It lasted six months. Powerful snouts burrowed under the frame and deformed it, causing the bolts to twist and eventually rust through. The sheeting then exercised its natural instincts to straighten out, and then the ventilation holes would not close, causing draughts, which pigs hate. I tried sticking plastic bags over them, but they invariably blew away.

The next time I wanted to house a few pigs, I kept my money in pocket and picked up a sledgehammer instead. I drove half a dozen stakes into the ground in the shape of the house I wanted to build, piled bales of straw against them, then drove more stakes around the outside to keep them in place. Total cost so far, about a tenner.

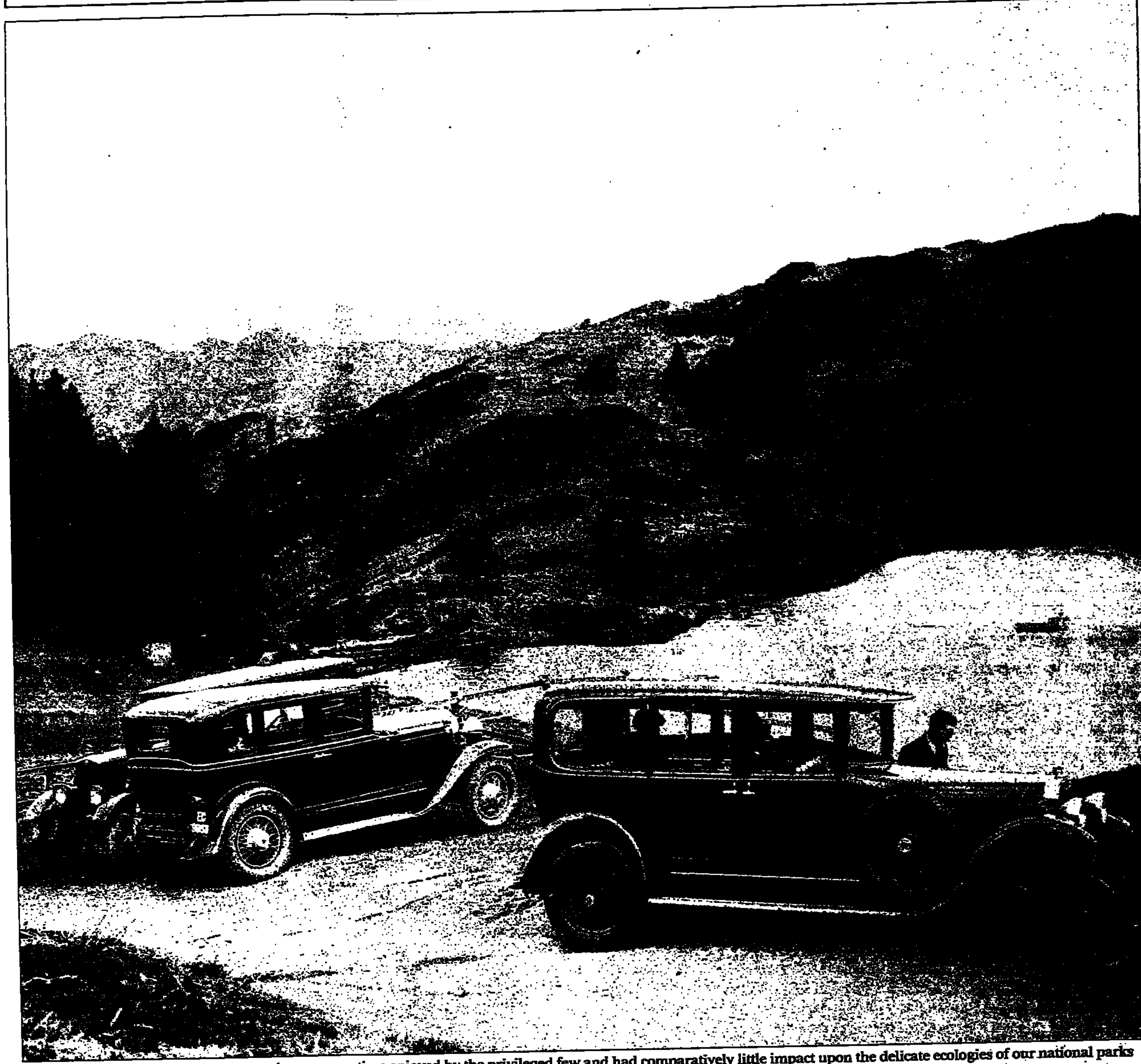
To crown this glorious creation, nothing Teflon-coated or German but a sheet of good old corrugated iron which, to any connoisseur of agricultural architecture, is as much a signature as exposed pipework is to Sir Richard Rogers. I didn't care what anyone else thought my pig hut looked like: farmers never do. Instead, I waited for the pigs' vote. Needless to say, it was acclaimed. Not only did the straw "breathe" in a way a solid wall never could, the pigs soon learned that this was a resource which they could pluck at to make bedding and shelter. If they plucked too much, you just slotted in a new bale, like Lego. And when the pigs were gone, I took only five minutes' work to remove the stakes and another five to break open the bales and use them to litter the yard, where the horses lived.

Are not all these qualities durability, transportability and affordability what the debate over the Millennium Dome is all about? They tell us it ought to be cheap (well, Clare Short does) and Mr Mandelson wants to take it down and move it around the country when it has done its duty at Greenwich.

I admit bales may not be the complete answer, but cannot help suspecting that the Government would be spending its time and our money better if it learnt to think more like good farmers, and less like cheque-happy parvenus.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

HULTON GETTY

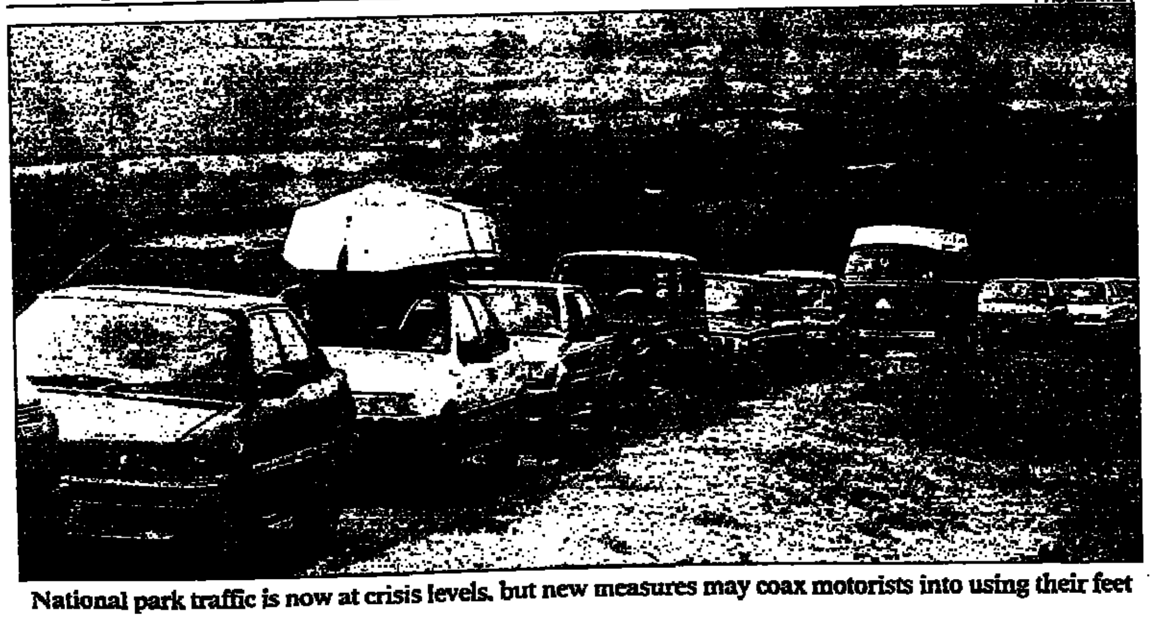


Lakeland leisure motoring, 1930s-style, was a pastime enjoyed by the privileged few and had comparatively little impact upon the delicate ecologies of our national parks

Park space runs out for cars

Motorists flocking to national beauty spots are ruining the very environments they come to see. Now the parks are planning ways to cut drivers out of the scenic picture, says **Nick Nuttall**

PAUL SLATER



National park traffic is now at crisis levels, but new measures may coax motorists into using their feet

In 1930 an unnamed car-spotter stood on the Whitby to Pickering road counting the cars pootling along the A169. On an average day in August he saw 630 vehicles coming to enjoy the spectacular landscape of the North Yorkshire moors and their pretty, uncongested villages.

Nearly 70 years on, the level of traffic roaring through the area has risen more than tenfold to nearly 8,000 vehicles a day.

The sheer volume of drivers pouring into the ten national parks of England and Wales is triggering growing levels of alarm among villagers and officials who look after these natural jewels.

Bill Breakell, tourism and transport officer at North Yorkshire Moors National Park, says people living in the area now rank cars as their number one concern — well above litter and visitor numbers. "Instead of people seeing open space, they are confronted with miles of metal cans on wheels," he says.

"Most visitors come to the national parks for landscape, peace and tranquillity. This is lost if it is not a national park but a national car park."

Mr Breakell says the influx is polluting the moorland air, and scientists believe there are other subtle impacts: traffic noise can wreck songbirds' mating rites, and nitrogen gases from exhausts may be altering the heathland ecology.

North Yorkshire is now attempting to turn back the clock, and has unveiled a ground-breaking scheme to boost the use of public rather than private transport. Visitors who come into the park on the Esk valley railway line will be given a £2 daily bus pass, free. Mr Breakell says the key to the project is its investment in frequent, high-quality buses to run on a 150-mile network. Other, tougher measures will be unveiled for all the national parks in the autumn. These include tighter speed limits to reduce traffic noise and a campaign against the widening of minor roads.

Senior parks officials say that success depends upon getting the Government to change its policy on funding rural transport schemes. Currently parks and local councils can bid for money for capital investments such as bus lanes and traffic-calming. But they need revenue schemes to pay for improved bus and train services. Government backing for these projects, however, is currently harder to secure under existing arrangements.

Martin Fitton, National Parks officer for the Brecon Beacons in Wales, and chairman of the All-Parks Transport Awareness Group, says the anomaly must be addressed: "We have got the situation where we can bid for funds to get a bus lane but not have the revenue to run it.

"People are simply not going to switch from their cars unless they can be certain that the public transport will run regularly and on time. If another bus is not going to come for an hour, or in some cases a week, it will not work."

He says that a new report, part-funded by the Countryside Commission, will outline plans to cut the speed limits on most roads running through parks, from 60mph to 40mph. The proposal mirrors pilot schemes in the New Forest, and in Dartmoor National Park.

He adds that the new strategy, which involves local authority highways agencies, will ensure that minor roads are not widened to accommodate more cars except in exceptional cirumstances.

The strategy will also aim to get people out of their cars for up to an hour by encouraging motorists to walk or cycle to scenic and historic sites within a one-mile radius of their vehicles. More visitor information, bicycle-hire facilities and cycle paths will be needed to achieve this.

Several parks authorities are also drafting plans to contain growth in car numbers. John Baker, of Yorkshire Dales National Park, says that the authorities had agreed to introduce schemes to keep car numbers at the levels recorded in 1994. The park receives 8.3 million visitors a year, and the figure is growing by around 3 per cent annually.

But mightn't this latest anti-car campaign provoke hostility? Sir Chris Bonington, president of the Council of National Parks, says it is a necessary risk: "The outcome is not going to please everyone, and some protests are inevitable," says the mountaineer. "But we need to find the fairest and most acceptable way. There has to be some sort of balance."

Pipits love to have a lark

FEATHER REPORT

BY THE end of August, large numbers of birds are on the move south, but for the most part they slip through the countryside inconspicuously. In fact, the whole saga of autumn migration passes practically unnoticed by human beings. However, one bird that draws attention to itself as it flies overhead is the meadow pipit.

It is a bird of rough pastures and moorland, where it keeps company with skylarks, and it used to be known as the "titlark", or little lark. It is a small, streaky, brown bird with a longish tail — related to the wagtails — and it has a distinctive note and way of flying. Its call-note is a weak "seep, seep-seep", unexciting, yet unmistakable when you get to know it. The migrating flocks use this call as they go, and when you look up you see that characteristic flight — a kind of seesaw action, with the birds constantly dropping down as if they were tired, then climbing again.

In summer they are common on the heather moors and hillsides, and like many birds of treeless landscapes, they fly into the sky and sing to announce ownership of the land below. As they go up, their notes get faster, and as they glide down, their song peters out. They build their nests under tussocks of heather or grass.

There are two other breeding pipits in Britain, the tree pipit and the rock pipit. All three species were often lumped together as "titlarks" until the 18th century, and it was not until the mid-19th century that they acquired their present names. Tree pipits, which are exclusively summer visitors, prefer to breed on the edge of woodlands. They have a rather similar song flight to the meadow pipit's, but climb into the air from a tree branch and parachute down to another one. Rock pipits haunt the coasts, feeding on the shore and breeding on the cliffs. In St Malo I have seen them at the top of the cliffs in the municipal gardens.

However, the meadow pipit is by far the most common species, and vast numbers come down from northern Europe in autumn. Many pass through Britain and others stay for winter. By mid-September they will be arriving steadily on the east coast.

THE British breeding birds come down from the hills, but it is not known how many of them stay in the lowlands or how many go farther south. At any rate, there are plenty of meadow pipits around in the fields in winter.

They feed on the ground, where they have a rather bent posture, and creep about like mice on flexed legs. If you get a good view of them, you can see the "necklace" of dots on either side of their breast. But you see them more often when you disturb them. They fly up with the familiar call-note and, in their jerky way, seem to be going step by step up an invisible ladder into the sky.

DERWENT MAY

- **What's about:** *Birders — look out for yellowish young willow warblers and duller chiffchaffs in gardens and shrubberies. Twitchers — sharp-tailed sandpiper at Saltholme Pools, Teesside; black-winged pratincole at Martin Mere, Lancashire; pallid swift at Mundesley, Norfolk. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.*

PETER BROWN

ON THE SPOT: WASDALE, CUMBRIA

Rural recommendations

The place: St Olaf churchyard, Wasdale Head, Cumbria.

The view: to the north stands Kirk Fell, south is majestic Scafell Pike and to the east the Great Gable and its beck.

The appeal: it has England's deepest lake and highest mountain and some of the country's best scenery.

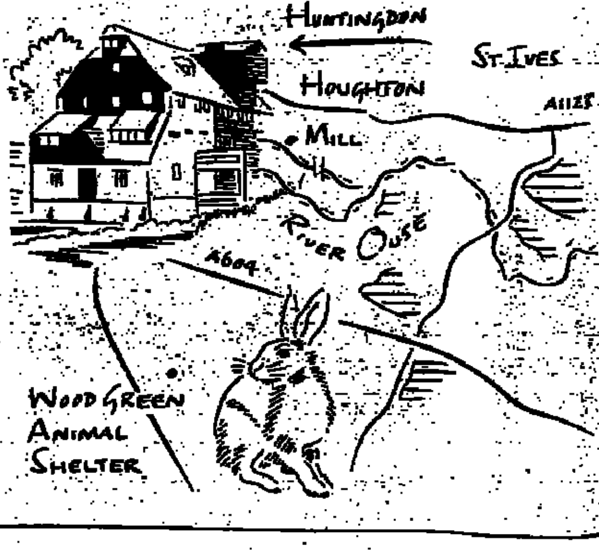
Historical interest: the church is reputed to be the smallest parish church in England and gets its name from the beams which are thought to have come from Viking ships. It is also the home of British rock-climbing.

OS reference: 188/088 on sheet 89.

Also nearby: the steep passes of Hardknott and Wrynose, much-photographed Buttermere Lake and Grange Fell.

DEBORAH KING

JANE SPENCER



If you're thinking really big about a London pad, **Katherine Bergen** has discovered the perfect answer

Vast is the only word to describe Julian Metcalfe's open-plan studio reception room and combined kitchen area measuring an overall 60ft 3in by 23ft with a high ceiling

Sandwich man's tasty filling

There is *something familiar* about the kitchen in Julian Metcalfe's *vast* south London house. Streamlined and stainless steel it looks very like *the interior of one of the* hugely successful Prêt à Manger sandwich shops which *have made him a great deal of* money.

Delicacy, however, forbade *me from peering in the fridge* to see if was stuffed full of chicken and avocado sandwiches *on brown* bread *or* pastrami and pickle on rye.

Whatever Mr Metcalfe *chooses to eat* at his *dining* room table, it can easily seat 12 people, perhaps up to 18 if one *chose to use less chunky chairs* than the comfortable but large wicker ones presently sur*rounding it. Although, as this* is a loft-style house, there is not exactly a dining room, *more a dining space within* one vast reception room.

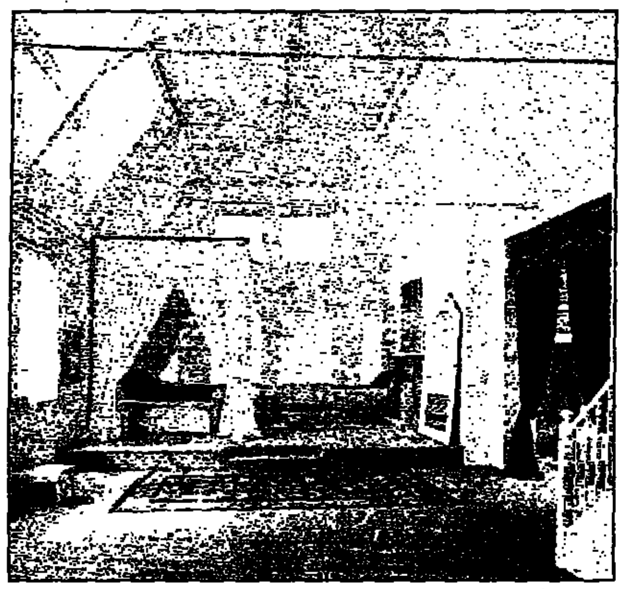
It is more than 60ft long *with very high ceilings and* divided roughly into three areas, with the kitchen at one *end, the dining area in the* middle and the sitting area at the other end.

It is the kind of space that

Owner: Julian Metcalfe

would make the heart of even the *most doughty* of dailies sink. A whole team of Mrs Mopps would be needed to *keep the 7,000 square feet of* the property gleaming.

Mr Metcalfe has managed *to avoid the almost inevitable* "uncluttered" look that these dimensions usually dictate. In *spite of its size, this room is* positively cosy. He has not resorted to gargantuan pieces of *furniture or artworks. He* has gone, rather, for quantity. Potentially intimidating expanses of wall have been fetchingly hung with dozens of paintings, books are heaped *on* coffee tables and brightly *coloured rugs cover the wood*en floor.



Main bedroom with two bathrooms and dressing rooms

The master bedroom up*stairs bears comparison to this* room in terms of its size. It is as large as a small church. Not *everyone would want to sleep* in a space this big. The curtains around the large four-poster bed look as if they *might be security blankets in* this cavern of a room. The only other piece of furniture is a *rather strange black leather* chaise longue which looks unnervingly like a psychia*trist's couch.*

The colours, in contrast to the vibrant reception room, are cool with unadorned white walls and coir matting (which *is not kind to bare feet). The* only splash of colour is a rich claret-coloured curtain draped *theatrically over the doorway.* You would never fall over each other in this room. There are *even his (red) and hers (tur*quoise) bathrooms and two dressing rooms. I can reveal *that Mr Metcalfe has an* exciting number of shoes.

If this is not enough bed*room, a staircase leads up to a* gallery. You could do a good Romeo and Juliet balcony *scene from here, or even a spot* of bungee jumping. It would probably make a good study if you could resist being distracted *by the view.* The loft, which runs the entire length of the building, is through a *trapdoor from this gallery.* As the house itself is likely to absorb any amount of spare *furniture thrown at it,* there could be more creative uses for this space than mere storage. *Think personal* gym *or artist's* studio.

There are six other bed*rooms, much more modest,* than this, as well as a playroom or second sitting room. *One of the bedrooms has very* low metal beams and might be most suitable for the smallest *member of the family. In fact,* you could house a large family in this section of the house and *never know they were there.* There is even a separate kitchen.

But it is difficult to get as excited about these rooms, robbed as they are of the *breathtaking dimensions of* the master bedroom and main room downstairs.

It was encouraging then, to discover that the parking arrangements for the house are *not niggardly. Back on* a lavish scale, there is off-street parking for seven cars.

● *Agent: Aylesford, 0171-351 2383*

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

No 7 William Blake House,
The Lanterns, Bridge Lane,
London SW11

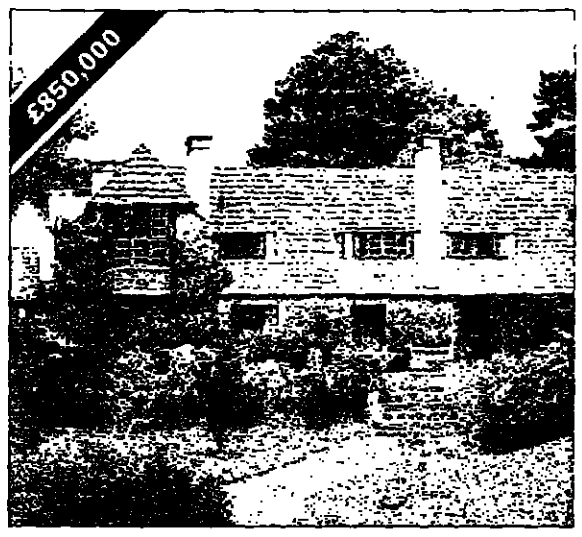
- **Price:** £1,650,000, with Aylsford (0171-351 2383)
- ***Advantages:*** *With a 60ft loft,* lack of storage space will not be a problem.
- ***Disadvantages:*** *Expensive to* heat and hell to clean. Window-cleaning might be pricey.

HOMESWAP

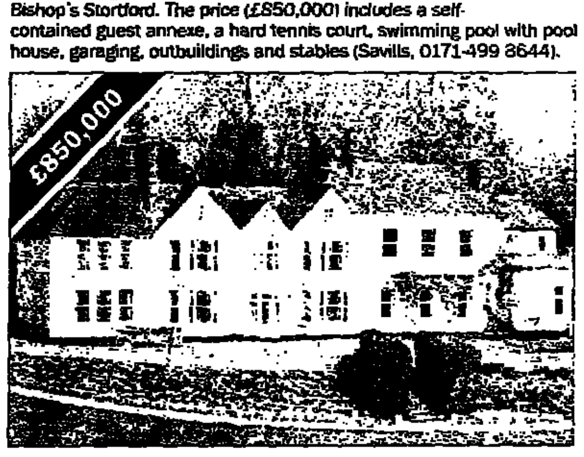
What the same money will buy around the country

A report from the *Land Registry published this Wednesday proves that* the Eighties are officially back. The report shows the extent to which the property boom is spreading from London to the shires, with house *prices rising in England and Wales on average* by 8.9 per cent. Prices in the areas detailed below (London, East Sussex and Hertfordshire) show some of the most dramatic rises. *Kensington and* Chelsea is now confirmed as the most expensive borough in London with average house prices of £272,000; and East Sussex saw prices rise by 16.5 per cent over the *past year. "Buyers are finding very little* to buy in Hertfordshire," says Jeremy Smallman from Strutt & Parker's St Albans Office, "and are having to look in Buckinghamshire." As a result, Buckinghamshire showed the biggest increase in the country with prices for an average home rising from around £93,000 to just *over £116,000. The average price for a farmhouse* in the county is £700,000, and there is said to be a shortage of good property in the £400,000 to £800,000 bracket across the country due to the demand from London escapees.

For £865,000 you could buy this five-bedroom period terraced house with a small south-facing rear garden, in Lamont Road, on the sought-after Ten Acre Estate, London SW10 (Savills, 0171-730 0822).



Swap London for Hertfordshire and you could afford Daneswood, a superb six-bedroom Grade II listed Arts and Crafts house *in 21 acres of* landscaped gardens, paddocks and woodland at Much Hadham, near Bishop's Stortford. The price (£850,000) includes a self-contained guest annexe, a hard tennis court, swimming pool with pool house, garaging, outbuildings and stables (Savills, 0171-499 8644).



In East Sussex, the same sum (£850,000) will produce Flimwell Grange, an elegant ten-bedroom Regency country house, in 15.4 acres of wooded gardens, paddock and vineyard, set on high ground overlooking Bewl Water. It comes with a separate two-bedroom staff annexe, garaging, heated swimming pool and hard tennis court (Hamptons, 0171-493 8222).

CHERYL TAYLOR

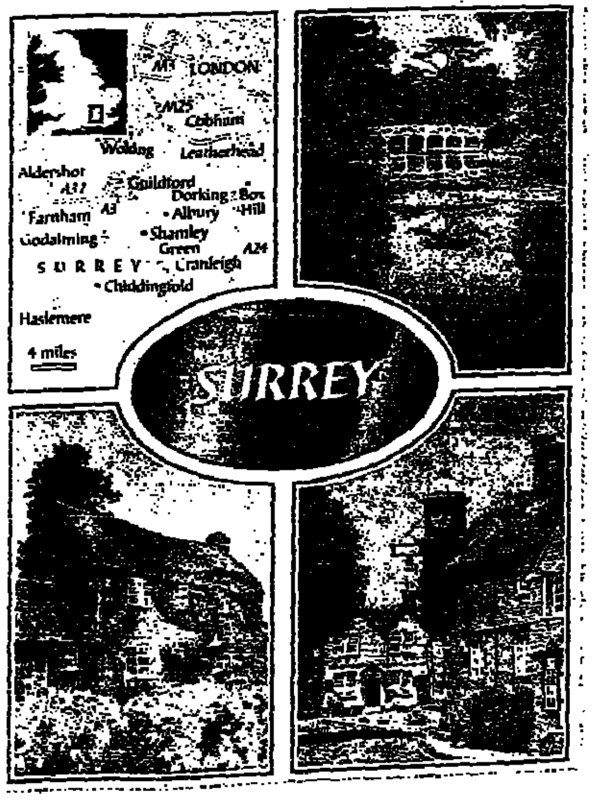
DREAM HOMES OF THE ENTREPRENEURS

ANN GLOAG, joint boss of the Perthshire-based Stagecoach, is the proud owner of Beaufort Castle, once the ancestral home of the Frasers of Lovat. It was bought for £1.3 million in 1995. *Gloag divides* her time between the 24-bedroom Victorian Gothic castle, in Beauly, Inverness-shire, and the family home — a former hotel nearby.

CHARLES DUNSTONE, founder and owner of The Carphone Warehouse, lives alone in a three-bedroom Victorian terrace. A huge aluminium *spiral staircase dominates* the four storeys, including the large first-floor sitting room, which opens on to a south-facing garden. Neighbouring properties fetch as much as £575,000.

JAMES DYSON, *inventor of the Dual Cyclone* vacuum cleaner and founder of Dyson Appliances, lives in the former home of Sir David Puttnam, the film director. Bought for £3 million before Christmas, the 17th-century country property stands in 40 acres on the banks of the River Avon, close to the village of Little Somerford.

PROPERTY PROFILE: SURREY



Attractions: despite its rather dour image as the Stockbroker Belt, Surrey, particularly beyond the M25, *is surprisingly* wooded and rural. Box Hill near Dorking, the North Downs and the many acres of National Trust common land in west *Surrey make for a pleasant escape from the* metropolis. Communications are also part of its appeal, with the A3 and fast rail services to Waterloo — *Guildford about 32 minutes away,* Haslemere 47 minutes. Gatwick and Heathrow are also within quick and easy reach.

Hotspots include Cobham, Guildford, Farnham, Haslemere and villages such as Shamley Green, Chiddingfold and Albury.

The market: Hot, despite the usual summer lull, agents say. Prime prices have risen by more *than 20 per cent this year,* according to Lane Fox in Haslemere. The local market almost automatically follows London trends, says the Surrey specialist Curchods. *Supply is poor, says* Knight Frank in Guildford, which has about 1,500 buyers on its books for 30-40 properties. Savills in Guildford reckons the market is not as good as before the election, with more realistic prices, and buyers refusing to pay over the odds.

Prices fell by up to 35 per cent from the 1988-89 peak, John D. Wood in Farnham says. The *market* began to show signs of recovery in 1994, with prices rising gradually by about 20 per cent over the past 18 months. Knight Frank says this market is different from that of the late 1980s, *with many more cash buyers on the scene.*

Expect to pay: The word Plus is the great appendage when talking Surrey prices. Curchods says: £225,000-plus for a three-bedroom, detached cottage; £650,000-plus for a farmhouse with some land; £750,000-plus for a medium-size country house. In exclusive St George's Hill and Wentworth Estate, a five-bedroom, detached house will set you back £1 million to £1.5 million.

Significant sale: *Garden Cottage,* a derelict property with a walled garden belonging to the Red Cross, near Wonersh, southeast of Guildford, attracted 75 viewings in the first two days. The cottage, with a guide price of £325,000, sold at about £425,000, Knight Frank says.

Outlook: Browns in Guildford expects more properties to come on to the market in the *autumn and steadier price increases than earlier* in the year. John D. Wood says the market will remain firm with possible increases of 10 per *cent in the next 12 months. Savills expects the* market to level out, with creeping interest rates having some effect on prices.

AMANDA LOOSE

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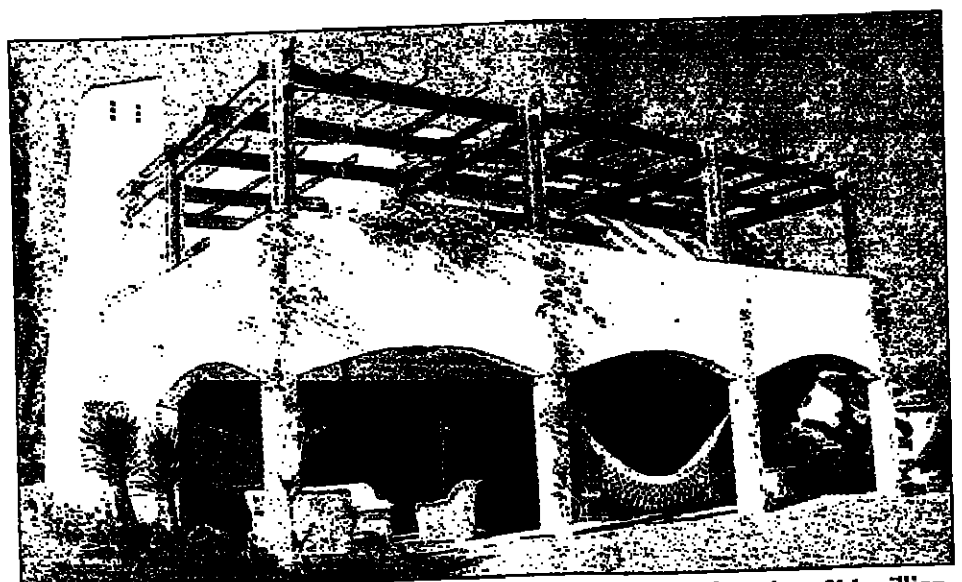
Out of the door and on to the fairway



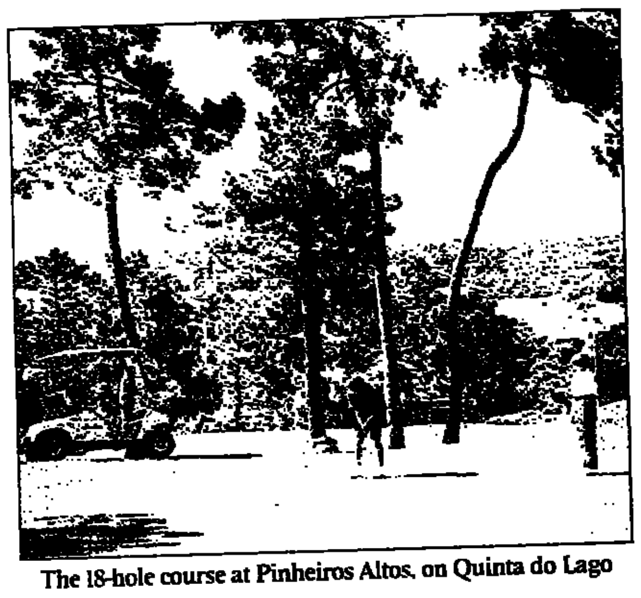
Smart villa with staff farmhouse and guest house at Almancil, for sale at £1.1 million

Impressive-looking luxury villa for sale at Pinheiros Altos, at £750,000. Formerly the show villa, it is situated on the golf course

> If your dream home is in the sun beside a golf course, try the Algarve

Property sales along Portugal's southern coastline, the Algarve, have been brisk, thanks to the strength of the pound and a growing band of well-heeled Brits looking for a second home at the edge of a championship golf course.

After six years in the doldrums, estate agents are reporting increased sales, both to foreign and domestic purchasers. British buyers remain the driving force along this 100-mile stretch with its Atlantic-swept sandy beaches and immaculate golf courses, extending from the Spanish border westwards to Cape St Vincent. In some upmarket leisure estates situated near Faro airport, with golf courses wall-to-wall, more than half of the owners are British, paying from £100,000 to more than £1m for a place in the sun. Despite the strength of the pound, new apartments in luxury golfing developments are more expensive than many flats in London.



The 18-hole course at Pinheiros Altos, on Quinta do Lago

Michael Carpenter of Prime Property International (PPI) reports keen interest from British purchasers in the 1,700-acre Quinta do Lago estate, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Ria Formosa nature reserve, near Faro. Here you can buy a four-bedroom, four-bathroom villa, with a swimming pool and direct access to the golf course, for £550,000.

"Now that the market has picked up, there is a shortage of good quality properties over £500,000," Mr Carpenter says. "More people are keen on golf and want to live alongside the fairways, with house, pool and garden taken care of when they are not in residence. Quinta do Lago has the best golf courses, is within easy reach of shops and restaurants and next door to Faro airport."

With its 72 holes of golf, Quinta do Lago (where a round of golf costs about £54 for 18 holes) is now the largest golfing complex in Europe. Property prices start at £120,000, which buys a two-bedroom flat at Lakeside Village, one of Bovis's developments on Quinta, overlooking a freshwater lagoon.

New apartments down by the beach at São Lourenco, Bovis's second development at Quinta, overlooking one of the best golf courses in the Algarve, cost from £140,000 for two bedrooms to £185,000 for those with three bedrooms, marble floors and designer kitchens. Family membership of the golf club costs £20,000. Although it is possible to pick up a second-hand, detached three-bedroom villa here for £300,000, the majority of homes cost a great deal more. PPI recently sold a five-bedroom house with a pool overlooking Quinta's famous greens for £1.1m.

The latest golf course development on Quinta do Lago, Pinheiros Altos, which includes an 18-hole golf course, is attracting the most interest. The developer has sold 91 villa plots between the umbrella pines, alongside the fairways, at an average cost of £160,000 for a half-acre plot. Many of these plots have since been resold for twice their original purchase price two years ago. The developer is now building 77 village houses and apartments in an 18th-century Portuguese classical style.

Prices range from £159,000 for a two-bedroom flat to £198,000 for a three-bedroom town house and £225,000 for a three-bedroom semi-detached house with a pool on the terrace.

Membership of the Pinheiros Altos Golf Club costs £8,700 for property owners (£30,000 to non-residents). Another 18 holes of golf are planned here, as well as a health spa and country club. Prices are lower away from the big developments, where a three-bedroom detached villa with a pool, within walking distance of the beach, can be picked up for £135,000.

Strict planning controls limiting the spread of holiday homes on the Algarve are bolstering prices. A halt has now been called to high-rise, high-density developments.

Legislation, which effectively bans most new development along parts of the west coast for the next ten years, is expected to lead to an increase in prices as the supply of new property dries up.

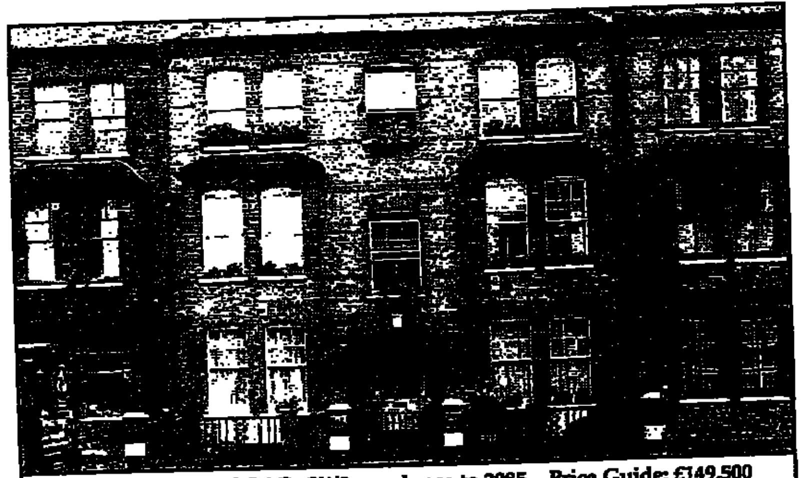
The farther west one goes towards Cape St Vincent, the scenery improves and property prices become more reasonable. A resale one-bedroom balconied flat overlooking the beach at Meia Praia can be had from £37,500; from £60,000 a two-bedroom property can be bought through European Villa Sales, which has a good selection of property in the western Algarve, as well as closer to Faro.

In Lagos, an ancient harbour town with a new marina, you can buy a one-bedroom flat with sea views for £57,000; £78,000 for two bedrooms. Around Lagos, a large detached villa in a quarter-acre plot with a pool costs from £130,000. Or buy a plot of land for £40,000 and build your own house for £60,000, plus pool and landscaping.

When buying a property in Portugal, as elsewhere, it is advisable to employ a lawyer to protect your interests. Having signed the provisional contract of sale, the buyer must pay a 10 per cent deposit, which is forfeited should he/she decide not to go ahead. If the vendor pulls out, he will be legally bound to pay the purchaser twice the deposit.

CHERYL TAYLOR

- *Bovis Abroad 0181-422 3488; European Villa Sales 01223 514241; Pinheiros Altos 0171-602 9922; Prime Property International 01628 778841. Solicitor Neville de Rougemont (0171-490 4656) specialises in Portuguese law.*



QUEENSTOWN ROAD, SW8. Lease to 2085 Price Guide: £149,500
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DEVON – STOCKLAND Price Guide: £460,000
A fine house with views across the Yarty Valley and a separate 2 bedroom cottage surrounded by own grounds. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 3 attic rooms, 2 reception rooms, swimming pool, walled kitchen garden, orchard, paddocks. About 5.67 ha (14 acres).
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SPENCER ROAD, SW18. Freehold Price Guide: £595,000
A attractive Victorian house with living space on the raised and lower ground floors and a beautifully landscaped garden. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, study, conservatory, utility room, off street parking.
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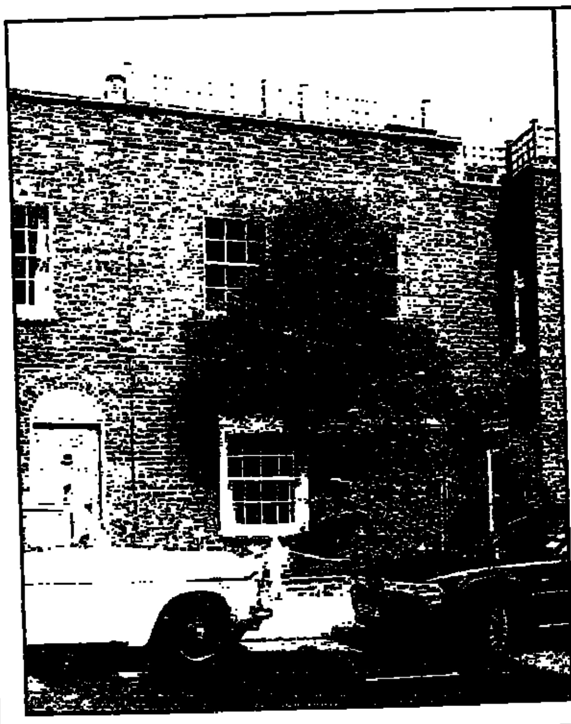

EDGE STREET, W8.

A charming period cottage in good decorative order with a garage to the rear and large roof terrace.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, reception room and kitchen.

Freehold

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Set back from the street, a well presented house on the Chelsea/Fulham borders.

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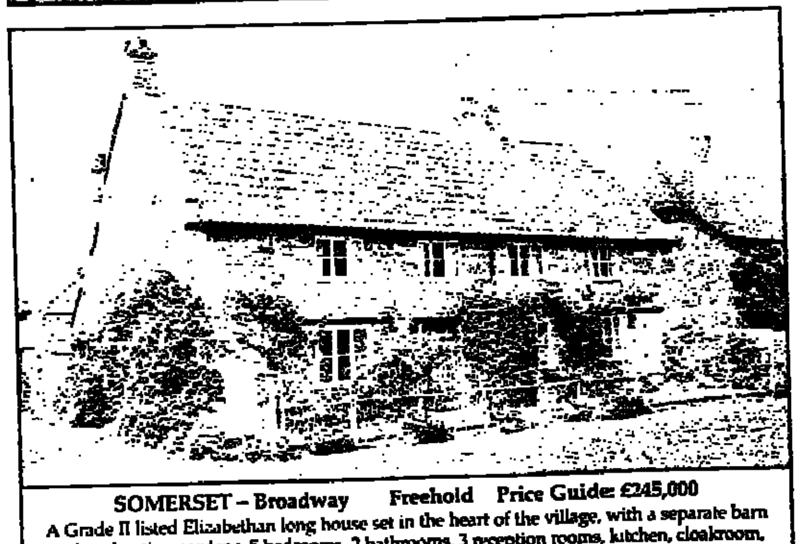
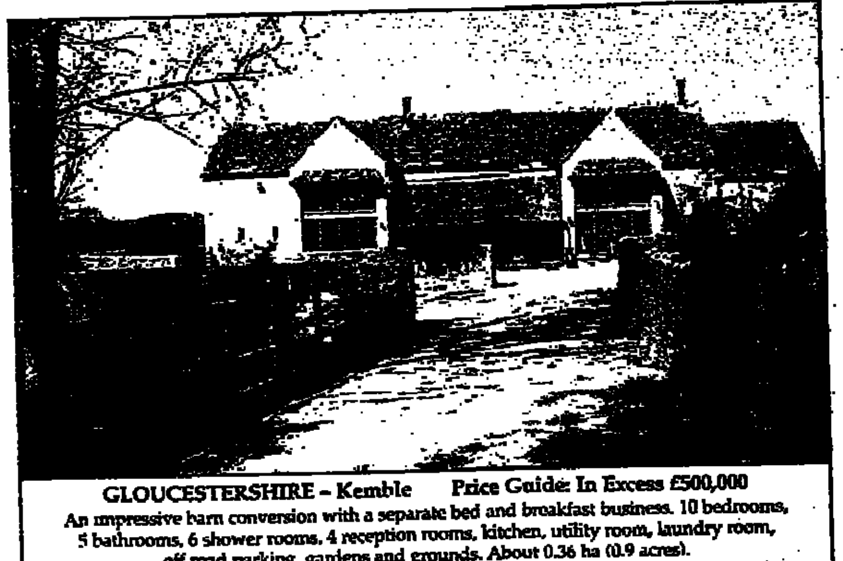


SOMERSET – Broadway Freehold Price Guide: £245,000
A Grade II listed Elizabethan long house set in the heart of the village, with a separate barn and enchanting gardens. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, utility room, 2nd kitchen and garaging.
WINCHESTER: 01962 863131



GLOUCESTERSHIRE – Kemble Price Guide: In Excess £500,000
An impressive barn conversion with a separate bed and breakfast business. 10 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 6 shower rooms, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, laundry room, off road parking, gardens and grounds. About 0.36 ha (0.9 acres).
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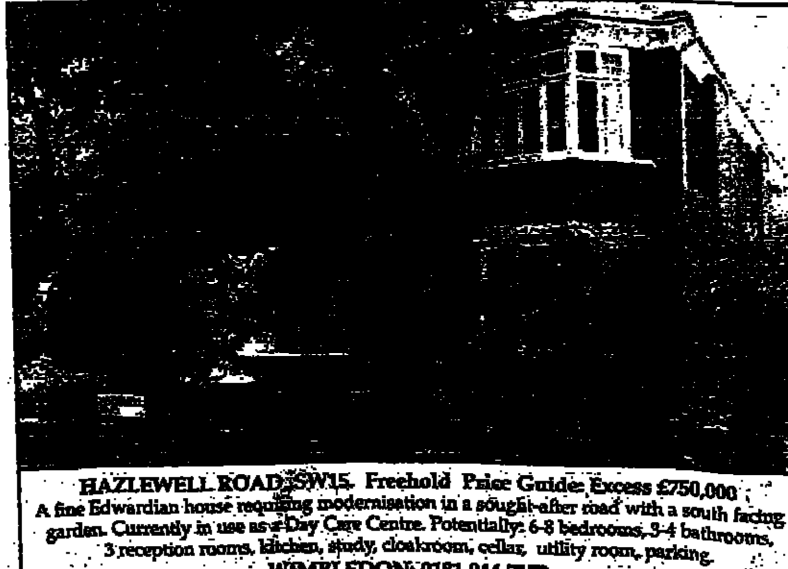

HAZLEWELL ROAD, SW15. Freehold Price Guide: Excess £750,000
A fine Edwardian house requiring modernisation in a sought-after road with a south facing garden. Currently in use as a Day Care Centre. Potentially: 6-8 bedrooms, 3-4 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, study, cloakroom, cellar, utility room, parking.
WIMBLEDON: 0181 944 7172

هكذا من الأصل

Repair to the country for less

Renovating estate properties can be a good deal for tenants, writes Christine Webb

TED BATH

UNIVERSAL PICTORIAL

The Marquis of Bath (above) pioneered the idea of offering estate property at low rent in exchange for renovation. The first tenants, Simon Ellis and family (right), have recouped their costs on selling their lease

In spring last year, the Marquis of Bath offered a new form of tenure on dilapidated cottages on the Longleat Estate: tenants sink thousands of pounds into renovation in return for low rents and a shortish lease. A year on, other country estates are joining the experiment, creating a new market for those who want to rent a home they can really make their own.

The experiment was highly successful at Longleat. Eight cottages were let to tenants at around £10 a week for the first two years, then, if the repairs were satisfactory, £25 a week for 14 years on condition that the tenants refurbished the cottages at their own expense, spending around £30.000. Six of the eight cottages are now finished to the estate's satisfaction.

The first tenant, Simon Ellis, has now sold his lease, which had 15 years to run, for £45,000, recouping his costs — a good test of whether the scheme worked in both parties' interests.

James Perks, Longleat's assistant land agent, says: "This does show these leases are saleable assets, though it would be unusual to get a mortgage for that term. The selection criteria on these leases is crucial because you do get a lot of applicants and you have to be sure that they have a clear idea of the extent of the work and the money that needs putting in."

The latest to try the idea is the Ilchester Estate in Dorset, which is offering the thatched, six-bedroom, 15th-century Manor Farm House at Melbury Osmond, near Yeovil, to a tenant who can stump up £50-£60,000 towards rewiring, replumbing, and installing a kitchen and bathrooms in exchange for a low rent. The estate would spend around £100,000 on external refurbishment.

At Glynde, in the South Downs near Lewes, East Sussex, the Glynde Estate is offering the rambling Trevor House to prospective tenants willing to put £50,000-£60,000 into its renovation in return for living there rent-free for three years. The estate recently rewired and replumbed the house and installed central heating in the property, which was bought by the Glynde Place Estate for £40 in 1682. But the tenant will have to redecorate, fit out kitchen and three bathrooms (for which some further estate funds might be released), lay carpets and hang curtains — no mean feat in a 13-bedroom home.

The tenant will be consulted on the internal decoration. Carpets and curtains may be bought back by negotiation with the landlord at the end of the tenancy, but there would be the option of a longer lease at the end of the initial three years.

A change in leasehold law that enabled tenants to buy their leases led to problems for estates that wanted to stay intact, but a lease of less than 21 years is exempt from the legislation.

Edward Green, land agent for the Ilchester Estate, says: "Clearly a recent change to the leasehold legislation has been a major blow. New Labour has an opportunity to address legislation introduced by a Conservative party casting about for votes. At Abbotsbury, Dorset, where the estate has property, not many people have applied to buy their remaining leases, and many existing leaseholders fall outside those provisions. But in future we won't be able to grant long leases and we're casting about for other ways to deal with the problem.

"Our biggest concern is that we can't give people a long enough term for them to get a reasonable return on their investment, and until someone addresses that legal problem, tenants are going to be inhibited from doing this."

As at Longleat, there is a limit to the number of properties into which the estate can invest the money required for refurbishment. The estate must now consider schemes involving joint ventures between landlord and tenant — possibly with the estate carrying out any necessary structural work and the tenant meeting the cost of internal refurbishment.

Trevor House, on the Glynde Estate, available to tenants prepared to put about £60.000 into renovation

Caroline Cope, of Simon & Sons, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, the outgoing chairman of the Association of Residential Letting Agents, says an increasing number of estates are taking the new approach. "Old-fashioned landowners are doing this now. We're doing an 11-bed dower house that is in a poor state of repair. It will have a 17-year lease, with no rent payable in the first year, £1,000 a month in the second year, £2,000 in the third year, and then £4,000 a month. Then there is a rent review. The repairs are too much for most people to take on. The estate wants old money, by which they mean someone with a title, and most of those people don't have money any more, so it has not been easy." The Neston Estate, near Chippenham, Wiltshire, has also tried out the system. Christopher Cox, of Cluttons, Bath, says one example is Lypiatt Farm, at Great Lypiatt, where the tenant retired and the farmland was re-let without the farmhouse.

"We put the house and outbuildings on the residential letting market as a separate exercise and found a tenant prepared to upgrade the internal facilities at his own expense. He is putting in central heating, bathroom and kitchen, and, after a rent holiday, he will be charged a rent that increases in steps to a market rent to reflect the investment over a three to five-year assured shorthold tenancy.

"We are talking of sums around £15,000; these properties are well maintained in every other respect. The advantage to the landlord is that they don't have to find the capital to do the work in advance of receiving rental income, but ultimately these improvements fall to the landlord. We've done three on this basis, which have been successful. You have to agree a specification of the works to maintain a standard and a timetable, which are included in the tenancy agreement, so they are enforceable.

"The arrangement satisfies both parties. The value of the house is increased, and the tenant gets to live in a substantial house."

- *Marcus Scrace, Ilchester Estate, (01935 83222). Strutt & Parker (01273 475411). Cluttons Bath, Neston Estate, (01225 469753)*

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1961 Château Latour à Pomerol: expected price £25,000-£35000 a case

SASHA GUSOV

"This must be the largest and most carefully put together cellar in existence anywhere in the world," says Paul Bowker, the head of the wine department at Christie's PA

Phantom of the cellar

The vendor is a mystery; the collection the greatest Christie's has seen. **Jane MacQuitty** reports on the wine sale of the century

The second round of the aristocratic, yet cut-throat, battle between auction-house wine departments goes to Christie's, which on September 18 and 19 will stage a sale that will make the cellar sold by Andrew Lloyd Webberat Sotheby's in April look less like Bacchus's and more like Mickey Mouse's.

Lord Lloyd Webber's 18,000 bottles, hailed at the time as the finest private wine collection ever sold, fetched £3.7 million, but Christie's can expect to raise more than £5 million with its even grander sale of 19,000 bottles in 1,502 lots.

Close security guards the identity of the mystery vendor, who has been Christie's biggest private customer for the past ten years. The anonymous collector, described as "a noted European businessman in his forties" and "a highly knowledgeable connoisseur who has drunk, and continues to share with his friends, the greatest wines in the world", is already well in the millionaire class.

The wines being sold, which are said to have been "amassed over two decades", would have cost at least £2 million to buy, store and insure. They would fulfil every British connoisseur's wildest dreams. And astonishingly, even after the sale, Christie's says, "the owner will retain a cellar of almost identical volume and quality".

The amazing thing is that the collection should contain such vast amounts of wines almost impossible to obtain in any quantity. The sale includes, for example, six cases of Château Le Pin 1994, from a tiny Pomerol estate which only produced 580 cases of that vintage to satisfy an exceptionally keen worldwide demand. Each box is expected to fetch up to £4,000 and could go higher.

There are also no fewer than 40 cases of the astronomically priced Pomerol Château Pétrus 1989, estimated at up to £8,000 each, and 30 of the 1990, at up to £9,000. Normal allocations of Pétrus are no more than a box per VIP customer, usually reserved for those who buy large quantities of lesser wines as well, yet this vendor, Christie's insists, will retain similar amounts in his own reserves.

Most of the stock in the sale was bought at Christie's and all of it with advice from Paul Bowker, the head of the wine department, and Michael Broadbent, the fine wine authority who is the department's chairman. The present sale has been under discussion with Christie's for a year. The vendor was advised to delay five or six months after Lord Lloyd Webber's sale was announced in the spring.

While the collection shows all the signs of having been bought with a keen eye to investment value and resale, it is the work of a true connoisseur, who has bought exceptionally long, deep and well in the finest wines and vintages. One indication that the vendor is a serious wine lover is his predilection for Château Latour 1964, a first growth picked before the rains in an "off" year, a glorious, garnet, truffle-rich mouthful and the star of the vintage.

That is just one of the wines which will be served at a pre-sale dinner for a lucky few to be held in Christie's Great Rooms on September 17, at which Michel Roux, of the three-star Waterside Inn at Bray, will do the cooking. The other wines featured there, a representative sample of the goodies on offer in the sale, are Dom Pérignon Rosé champagne 1982, Sauzet's Bâtard Montrachet white burgundy 1992, Château Calon-Ségur 1947, the Pétrus 1990, Yquem 1983 and Taylors 1955 vintage port. It is hard to imagine classier pump priming.

The vendor remains Christie's largest private customer, as well as its most valuable supplier. His latest passion is the wines of Italy, though he also invests in Australian Grange wines, which feature in the sale.

It is a collection which easily outclasses that sold by Lord Lloyd Webber, and Mr Bowker seems fully justified in saying: "This must surely be the largest and most carefully put together cellar in existence anywhere in the world. It is the most fabulous collection of wines I have ever seen."

Serena Sutcliffe, head of Sotheby's wine department who was behind the hype for the Lloyd Webber sale, refused to discuss Christie's riposte this week, but no doubt she is looking pretty green.

Eclipsed: Lord Lloyd Webber and cellar, sold by Sotheby's in April

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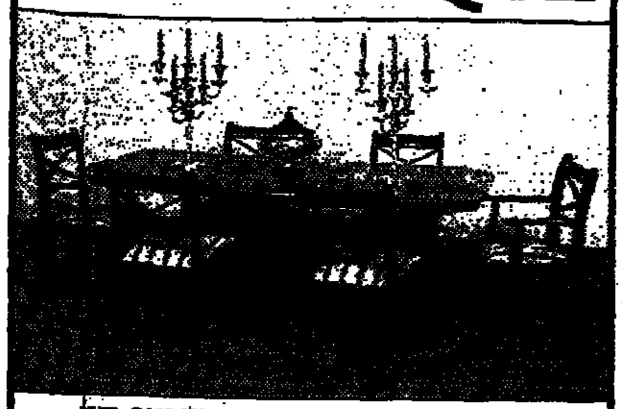

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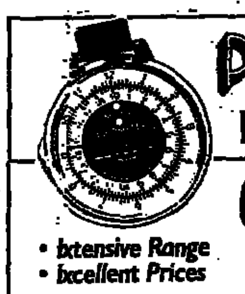

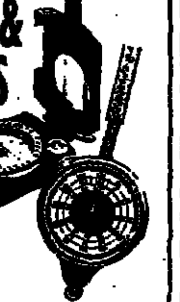

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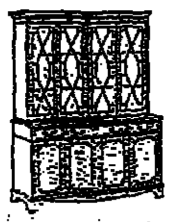

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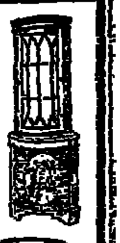

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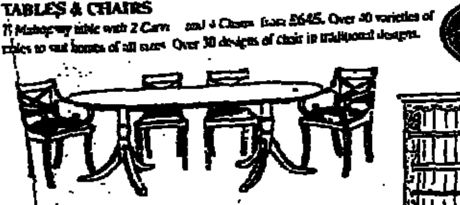

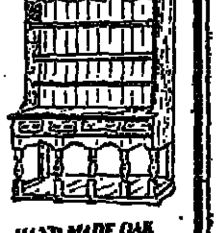

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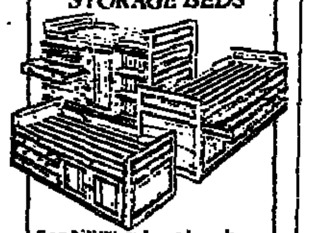

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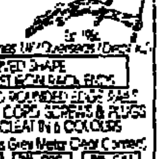

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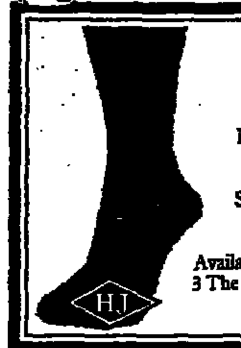

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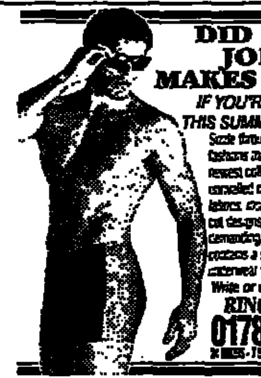

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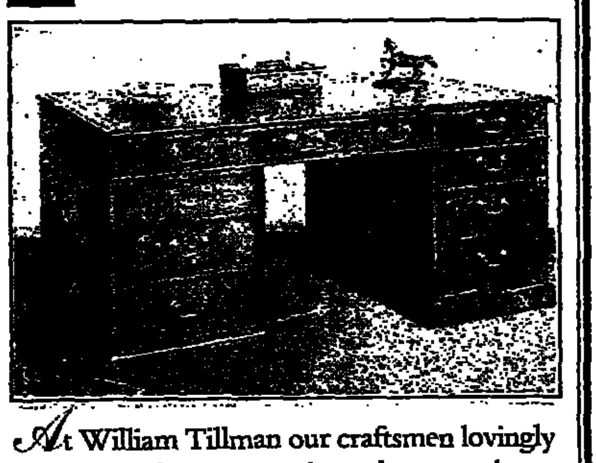

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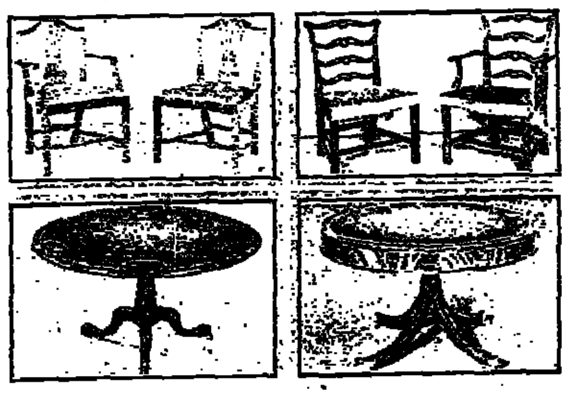

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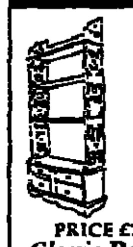

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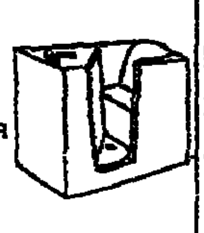

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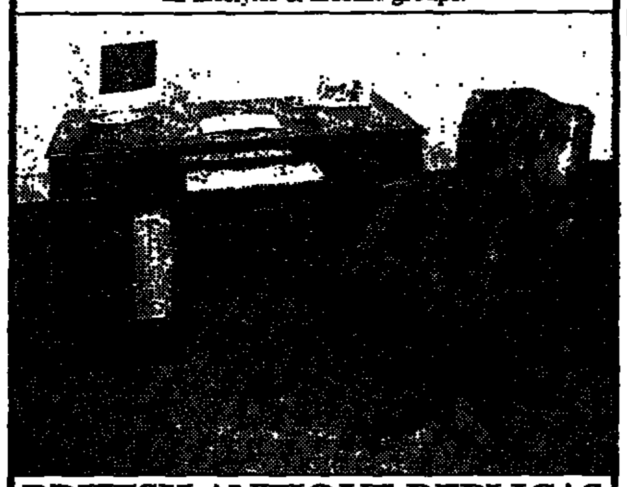

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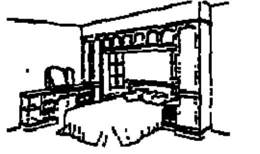

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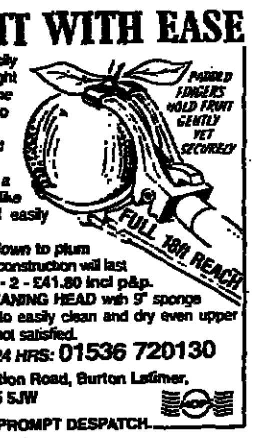
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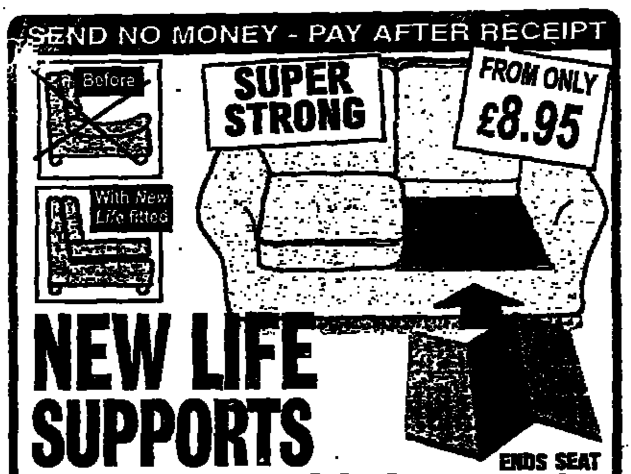

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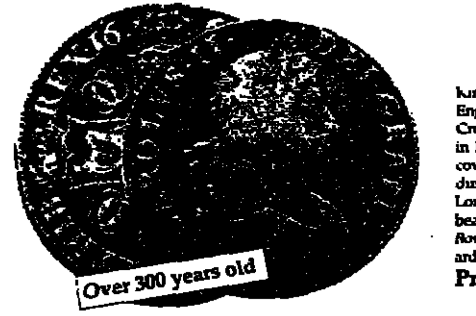

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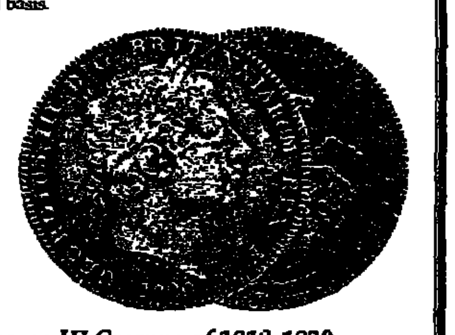

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Little pets we're itching to kill

Last year more than 11 million cats and dogs were treated for fleas — and scientists say that is only scratching the surface

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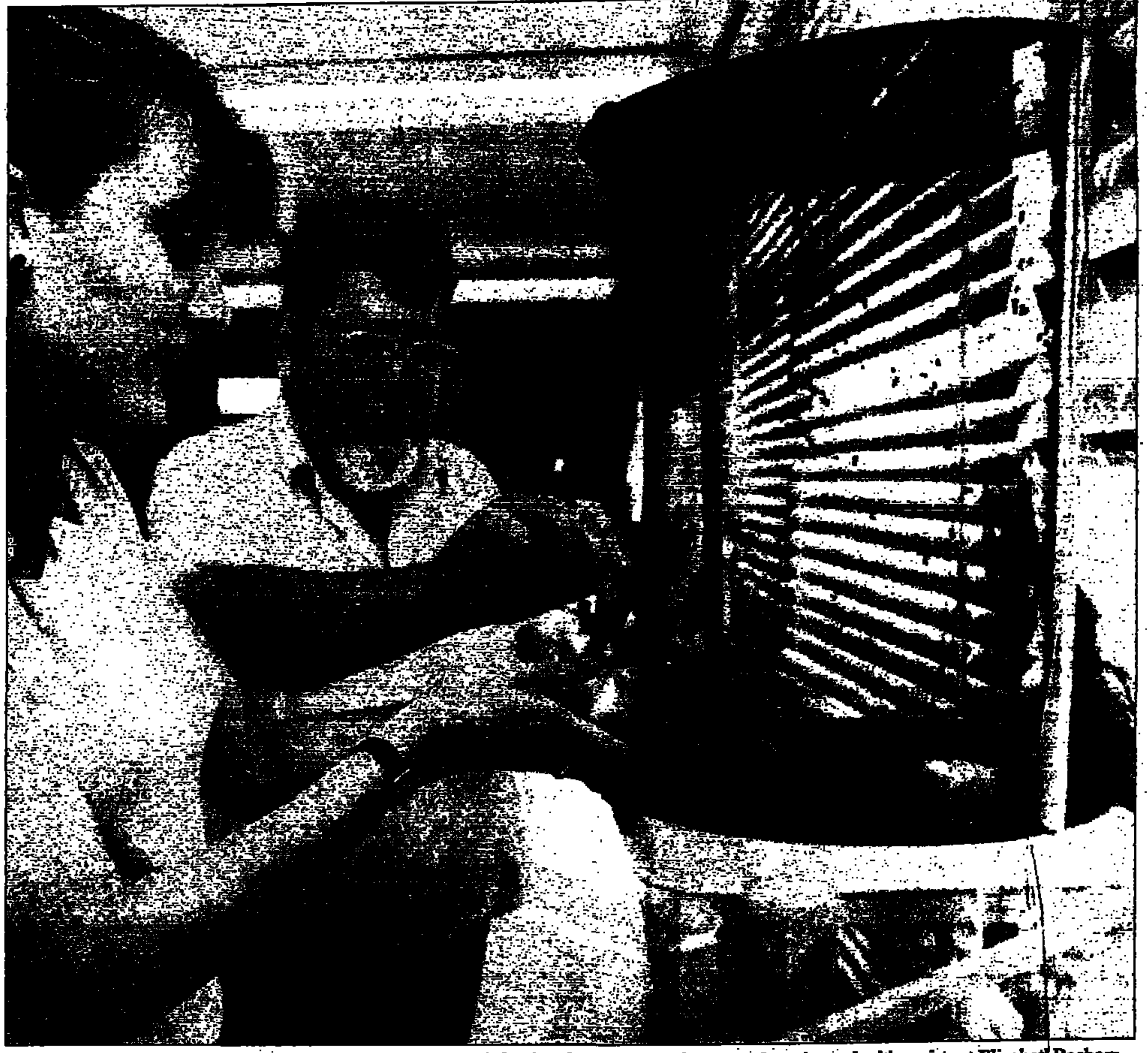
Cat flea: note the long hind legs which are so good for jumping



Cat fleas have been increasing in number and moving north for decades, says Dr John Maunder, pictured with assistant Elizabeth Basham

Most little boys would be squealing with delight at the following pet profile. This formidable beast can jump 118 times its own height, the equivalent of a six-foot human clearing 62 storeys in one bound. It can long-jump 135 times the length of its body. It can bounce up to 10,000 times in succession. And it wreaks havoc wherever it goes.

The mystery creature is the flea, one member of the animal kingdom that has revelled in the hot and humid August weather. It is also, according to Dr John Maunder, head of the Cambridge Entomology Centre, a creature whose population has exploded in the past 50 years. The parasite has terrorised cats, dogs and even pet-owners. One anti-flea company reports treating about 11 million cats and dogs for fleas in the past year alone.

The ones that nip you on your lower leg are probably cat fleas, the commonest of the 63 species which inhabit our shores (there are 3,000 species around the world). According to Dr Maunder, who has been a devoted flea-watcher for 30 years, the critters are bolder than ever. "Cat fleas have been increasing in numbers and moving north for decades," Dr Maunder says, and adds that the cat flea is thought to have originated in the Middle East. Its migration over the past 50 years has been aided, he says, by global warming. Once here, it thrives in badly ventilated houses, helped by double glazing and central heating.

Vets have also been inundated with flea-ridden animals. "I would say one in three animals that comes here has a flea problem," says Martin Fielding, from the Fielding and Cumber practice based in Weymouth, Dorset. "This year is one of the worst I can remember."

The life cycle of a flea is a fascinating study in feasting, fornication and sudden death. A female flea will lay about 30-40 eggs. Each egg will hatch within days as a larva, a microscopic worm. Junior flea then spends the following one to three weeks crawling around the floor dining on a menu of food crumbs, dead human skin and flea droppings. At this stage it needs not blood but water; the recent humid conditions have been perfect.

The pupal stage comes next: the worm spins a silk cocoon for itself. After a month, it emerges as a fully fledged flea. Then comes a Herculean exercise in patience. Dr Maunder says: "A flea doesn't hunt out a cat. It waits until one passes and then jumps on it." It can wait up to eight months for the perfect victim. "Occasionally it will bite a passing human but we taste awful so it jumps off again."

Once confronted with its favoured target, the flea feeds on blood and reproduces continuously over a span of about three days. "It kills itself in a frenzy of mating, eating and egg laying," Dr Maunder says with relish.

The effects on pets can be distressing. Symptoms include excessive licking, scratching (sometimes leading to broken skin and bleeding) and hair loss. Novartis Animal Health, which makes an anti-flea treatment, says four out of five cases of skin disease in animals treated last year were due to the parasites. The main skin condition is flea allergic dermatitis. Mr Fielding says: "The flea injects its saliva into the animal to prevent the blood clotting, but the saliva contains a protein to which many animals are allergic."

Although different species target one animal — there are rabbit fleas, mouse fleas and dog fleas — cat fleas are responsible for canine misery as well. Dr Maunder says dog fleas are rare: "We invited people to send us fleas for the awareness week, and of the thousands we received, only two were dog fleas. They both came from the West Country."

One reason why fleas often survive is that they are so small. The cat flea, for example, measures just 2.5 millimetres. It is estimated that for every flea you can spot hopping around, there are another 19 nesting out of view. The most effective treatments are those which target flea eggs, larvae and pupae. Program, manufactured by Novartis, is an example: the chemical, administered in pill form to pets, prevents the development of chitin, the main building block of the parasite's external skeleton. As for human fleas, they have been virtually eradicated through higher standards of living.

"You are more likely to find a human flea on a pig than on a human," Dr Maunder says. "But you may get bitten by cat fleas." Apart from the embarrassment, it is not generally a problem. "If someone had 100 bites I would call that serious. They could become quite unwell. I have heard of two deaths but that is extremely rare."

ANJANA AHUJA

● *For free copies of* The Definitive Flea Guide, *call 0171-304 2481.*

FLEA-FREE ZONE

■ Adult fleas live on cats and dogs, *James Allcock writes.* Flea eggs develop in the pets' beds, beneath the carpet, or any other dry, warm place where the pet sleeps. Their eggs hatch within several days into larvae and then pupae. Adult fleas can wait up to eight months for a suitable host — a cat, a dog or human.

■ Flea control depends on attacking those on the pet with baths, sprays, dusting powders or various "drop on" preparations. All dogs and cats should be treated, as should their beds and "snoozing spots".

■ Tablets and medicines given by mouth will inhibit the development of flea eggs, and stop the second-generation fleas. These are prescription-only medicines and obtainable only from a vet.

Calorie-controlled food is helping millions of pets to shed unwanted fat. **Carolyn Henderson** reports

Health alert for fat cats and cuddly canines

SWNS

Poundstretcher: ask the vet how heavy your pet should be

Puppy fat is not just unsightly, it can kill. And as British pets pile on the pounds, the incidence of some forms of cancer is increasing, according to Susan McKay, the head veterinary surgeon for Spillers Petfoods.

The extra weight is also putting limbs under stress. "Some surveys have found that one in three dogs is overweight," she says. "Others put it as high as one in two."

If your cat or dog is podgy, Ms McKay suggests some simple checks to see if your dog is overweight. "You should be able to feel the ribs," she advises. "If you have to dig your fingers in, the dog's overweight; if you can see the ribs clearly, he's underweight.

"You should also just be able to see the spine — it shouldn't be buried under rolls of fat or stick out — and he should have a slight 'waist' between the last rib and hip."

Cats are more difficult to examine. "Their fat is deposited in different places. You can't give average weights for dogs because breeds vary so much, but the average cat weighs about 3.5kg. Overweight cats get fat pads on the lower abdomen, which people sometimes think are growths. If you're not sure if your pet is the right weight, ask your vet."

Some dogs are more prone to weight gain than others. Older animals, labradors and golden retrievers are susceptible, as are neutered dogs — although Ms McKay stresses that worries over weight gain should not prevent owners having pets neutered..

Although two dogs may be fed the same, their weight gains may be very different. Joss, our four-year-old springer spaniel who never walks when he can run, weighs in at a perfect 17kg. Jenna, 6, our golden retriever who *is* laid-back to the point of being horizontal, is 32kg and should ideally be 30kg.

A balanced diet and correct exercise are the keys to getting your pet back in shape. "Aim for gradual weight loss," says Ms McKay. "A lot of people overfeed and give table scraps. If you want to give your pet a treat, give a commercially balanced one rather than a sugary one and take it into account when you work out the overall amount of food."

Some dogs like apple and carrot pieces, which are low in calories. Ordinary chocolate, as opposed to commercial "dog chocs", is poisonous, as is raw onion. And do not heed the advice that a dog needs only one meal a day. "Large breeds should have at least two meals a day or you risk gut torsion, when the gut fills with gas and twists," says Ms McKay. "Smaller breeds are also better on two meals."

The rules of human nutrition do not necessarily apply to pets. "Fat is full of calories, but dogs and cats digest it really well and have a specific requirement for it," says Ms McKay. "And while people often say that protein is bad, they need that, too. Dogs, especially, burn it for energy.

Sometimes people say, 'My dog only has the best, he has steak'. But *steak* isn't the best because it's unbalanced. Good commercial foods are balanced and, as long as you feed the right amount, your pet shouldn't need extras."

Spillers and Pedigree Petfoods make low-calorie ranges for dogs and cats, available in pet shops and vets. Neither range is much more expensive than ordinary foods: for a dog it's about 34p a day, compared with 30p for ordinary varieties.

Pedigree Petfoods even runs a Slimmer of the Year competition. "The winner is chosen for the most successfully managed weight-loss programme, not overall weight loss," the company says.

Exercise should be tailored to a pet's age and condition. "In general, work on the basis of an hour's lead exercise a day for dogs," says Ms McKay. "Younger animals are growing and over-exercise causes bone problems. With older dogs, gentle lead exercise keeps their joints supple. If your dog is very overweight, start at 20 minutes a day and increase gradually."

Cats are more difficult because if calorie intake is over-restricted, liver problems can result. It is best to ask your vet to check your cat's diet.

While few cats would appreciate being taken for a walk on a lead, you can play with them. "Exercise them with toys," says Ms McKay. "Fasten toys on sticks and get them to chase them."

The best advice is to treat a pet in the same way as you would a human: if you keep your pet fit and feed it regularly with the right food, it will be happier and healthier.

● *Spillers runs a free UK phone line for pet-care advice (0800 738 2273) and offers a weighing and nutrition sessions for pets through its mobile units.*

For a free information sheet on overweight pets, write to Pedigree Petfoods, Waltham on the Wolds, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE14 4RS.

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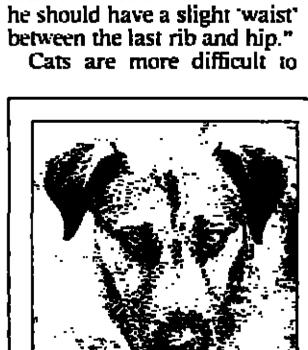


Affectionate: Horseman

HORSEMAN is a five-year-old schnauzer-cross Jack Russell whose disabled owner is no longer able to cope. He is lively and affectionate dog, good with children. He is not housetrained, as he is used to being outside, and would need access to a large garden or a farm.

Anyone interested in adopting Horseman, please phone Mayhew RSPCA, London (0181-969 0178)

A VET WRITES

Q **My West Highland terrier suffers from flatulence. He finishes his main meal — canned dog food — around 5pm and two hours later starts to expel wind, which creates an unpleasant pong in the lounge. Is there anything we can do?**

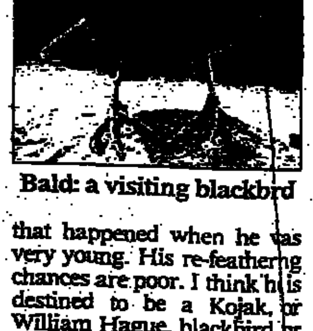
A Striking a match (a red-headed one is best) will clear the polluted atmosphere and make life tolerable. Intestinal fermentation might be reduced by giving him three or four little meals each day, so food is dealt with by the digestive juices rather than the yeasts and bacteria that produce gases. A sprinkling of bran on his food might help. You don't say what he drinks. Clean water is best. Milk could exacerbate the odour problem.

Q **My neighbour's cat is a fearsome slaughterer of birds — and songbirds are at a premium in London. I bought a cat collar with a bell, but the bell tinkles much too daintily. Do you know where I can buy a bell with a clarion ring?**

A I'm afraid I don't, and in any case tinkles — whatever the decibel rating — are not effective avian alarm signals. Songbirds rely on sight rather than sound to detect danger. That's why their heads are constantly rotating and their eyes are placed on the side of the head to give wide-angle vision. If you could find a "jewelled" collar with a shiny bell, the resultant warning flashes of light might help to reduce the songbird carnage.

Q **A friendly bald blackbird has started to visit us, even entering the house in search of his treats. He brings his two offspring with him — and passes some of the food on to them. Their heads are fully feathered. What caused his baldness?**

A The photographs you have sent show he's got a smooth head without any broken or deformed feathers. That seems to exclude attack by other birds or self-inflicted injury because of some itch or feather disease. I think it is either a genetic abnormality — in spite of his offspring being fully feathered. White blackbirds turn up occasionally. Alternatively, the feather follicles on his head could have been destroyed by something that happened when he was very young. His re-feathering chances are poor. I think he is destined to be a Kojak, or William Hague, blackbird for the rest of his life.



Bald: a visiting blackbird

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هكذا من الآ

‘Part of me still thinks gardening is what women of a certain age turn to when their children have gone away to university’

Fading flower or femme fatale?

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

At the parish church of St Damian and St Cosmas, one of three religious establishments regularly patronised by my parents, who are v. keen (unnecessarily keen, my sister and I used to feel when we were little) on religion, the big event of the Bank Holiday was the flower festival.

My mother's contribution to this year's theme of Women of the Bible was a handsome still life, straight from the pages of Constance Spry, representing Claudia, wife of Pontius Pilate, by means of a small oil lamp, a substantial terracotta urn and a generous plateful of Safeway's exotic fruit.

Elsewhere in the church, still more exuberant feats of imagination had taken place. Possibly the most striking of all was Lot's wife being turned into salt — a pillar in the nave, modestly draped in white butter muslin and crowned with a wreath of marguerites — a construction which, from a distance, succeeded in conveying a fine air of monumental resignation and a certain stolid outrage.

But there was stiff competition from a spritely Jezebel (gladioli, scarlet geraniums, handfuls of paste jewels and a large model Dalmatian). Momentarily distracted from contemplation of I Kings XXI, I found myself thinking that Jezebel is rather a pretty name and I wonder if I might give it to my daughter, when I get around to having one.

Filled with flowers and people, the church exhaled a faint melancholy. By the altar stands the roll of those killed in the Great War — a long list of solid Kentish names, like Vant, Vidion, Guv, Epps, even an (unrelated) Shilling. And above my mother's neat heap of passion-fruit and mangos, a marble slab let into the wall commemorates Harry Lyall, who lived in Albany, owned land in Berwick, and now "lies in this churchyard, where from boyhood he desired to be buried" — a bit of forward planning as touching as it is eccentric.

Alexander started reading this, but I moved him along sharply, in case it gave him Ideas. A child of reflective disposition, he is already subject to periodic fits of *timor mortis*, and I really don't think I can bear to spend the next decade or so discussing where he might like his last resting place to be.

Outside, at the flower stall, I fell into a long and inspiring discussion about Afghan sage, and left with a splendid example in a pot. I wondered, on the way back to London, why I am still so furtive about admitting my enthusiasm for gardening. I have read plenty of articles about what a fashionable pursuit it has become, but there is a part of me that still thinks it is what women of a certain age turn to when their children have gone away to school or university and their looks have started to fade.

When I find myself reading *The Garden* before the new *Vogue*, a nagging voice in my head tells me that this is the first sign of letting myself go, and that if I persist, before long I shall become completely herbaceous — and then it will be goodbye for ever eyeliner and red patent Azagury kitten heels; hallo scrubbed face and land-girl breeches held up with bits of binder twine . . .

On the doorstep, when I get back, I find my friend Charles. Settling himself comfortably all over my sofa, he sinks at a gulp the half-bottle of left-over chablis that I was vaguely saving to drink in front of *The Jewel in the Crown*, and looks round expectantly for something else to consume. "Stay and have something to eat," I say, putting a saucepan of water on to boil. "I'll just pop to the off-licence for some more wine." I am halfway back home with another bottle of chablis when out of a shadowy doorway there looms a large young man with sad, dark eyes and huge muscles bursting out of a weightlifter's singlet. Mindful of Inspector Knacker's recent advice to Londoners to be very rude when accosted by strangers, I fix him with the Medusa glare I use for people who knock at the front door when I am dusting on a Sunday morning and ask if I am saved.

Excuse him, he says, his name is Achille, and he is sorry, but his English is very bad . . . Never mind, I say, in my schoolgirl French, feeling rather guilty and adjusting my expression to something a bit more welcoming — probably he is only after directions to the pub.

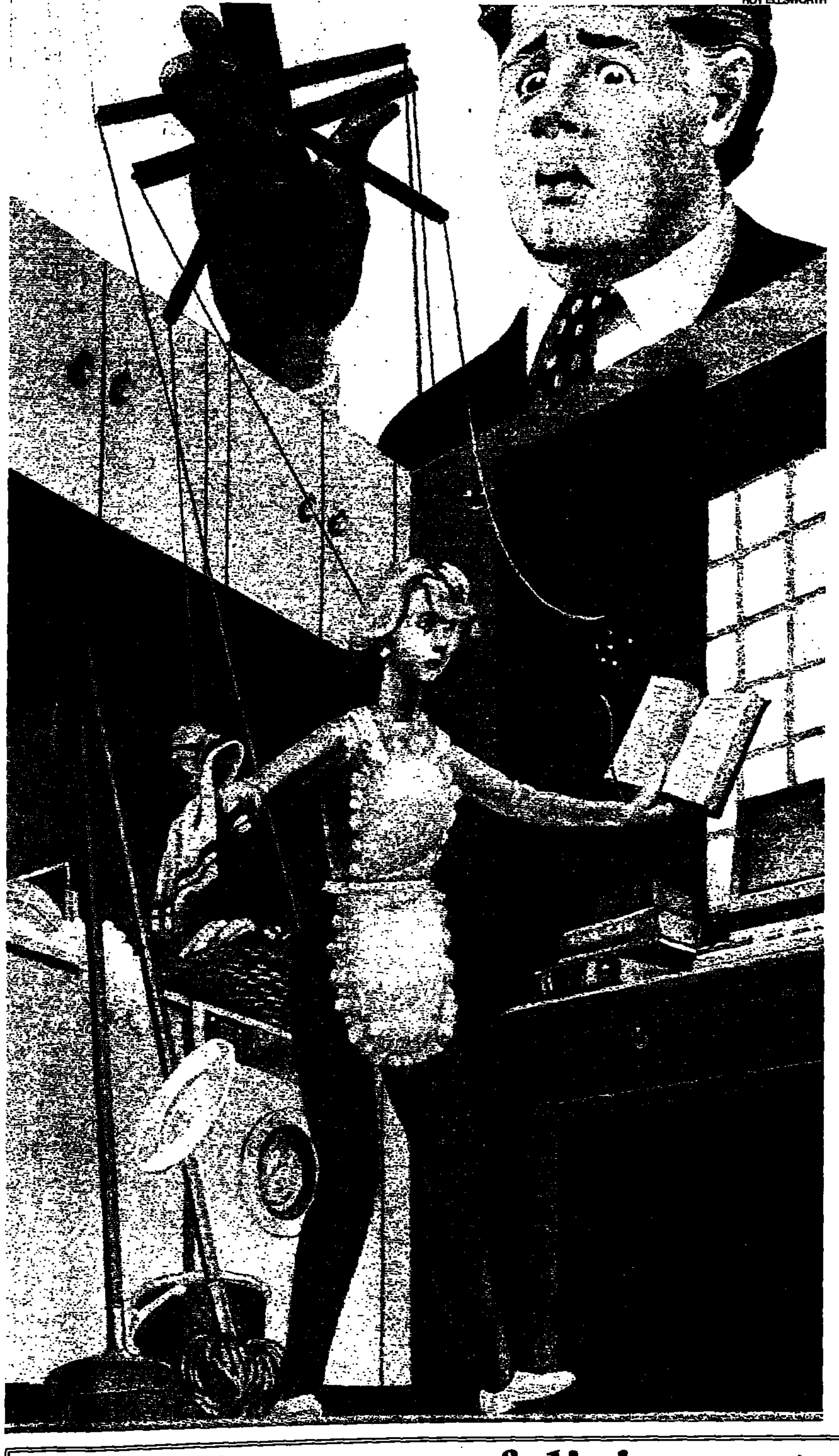
He has noticed me before, he says, and he would like to tell me that I please him very much. I wonder whether to hit him with the chablis, decide that this might be premature, and say instead how nice of him to think this, and now I must hurry home to my children and my husband who is, *malheureusement*, a violent and jealous psychopath.

"*Regardes*," says Achille, sketching in the air with his hand a shape like that of Jessica Rabbit, with whom I have not previously been compared. "*Comme tu es belle comme femme*." Well, that is as may be, I say. But I am also *une femme serieuse*, and old enough, furthermore, to be your . . . elder sister. *Adieu*, Achille.

"I say what is in my heart," calls Achille reproachfully, as I leg it for home. All I can think is that, whatever the subtext of this extraordinary conversation, it is certainly not one you would *ever* have with an Englishman.

Indoors, the pan of water has boiled dry and Charles's gaze is fixed on the television. I decide to try a little experiment. "Charles," I say. "Tell me, would you say I was beautiful, as a woman?" "Eh?" says Charles, who farms. "What? Hang on a minute, can you? Only the weather forecast is just coming up and I really *must* watch it . . ."

ROY ELLSWORTH



Harsh lessons of home life

Marriages often fall apart when wives return to study, says **Diana Appleyard**

It has been labelled the *Educating Rita* syndrome. More and more women are returning to education after bringing up a family. For most of them, it heralds a huge change in their life and, if their partner isn't prepared to change and adapt too, it can lead to the break-up of their marriage.

In the film, Rita (Julie Walters) walks out of her dull hairdressing job to take a university course. She begins an affair with her tutor (Michael Caine). Her husband, left behind at home, cannot understand the new "educated" Rita and is bitterly frustrated.

Professor Christine King is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Staffordshire, where a large number of mature students are women returners. "Women often decide to return to study because they are facing a crossroads in their life," she says. "Often the children have grown up and they feel redundant in the home. People do change when they begin to explore their potential, and many husbands feel threatened or insecure about these changes in the woman they thought they knew so well."

Anneka Rice, the television presenter, returned to college when her marriage to impresario Nick Allott was going through a sticky patch. She has enjoyed her university art course, which has given her a sense of freedom from work schedules. But the marriage has not survived and she is expecting a baby with television producer Toni Gutteridge.

For Heather Pollitt of Manchester, the return to higher education almost exactly mirrored the film *Educating Rita*. "I worked as a hairdresser," she says. "I'd left school after O levels because my family wanted me to work in the family business. I married young: my husband was a successful businessman. We had a daughter, but I never felt I belonged.

"I never felt right working as a hairdresser, and what my husband wanted was a wife willing to take second position to him, to cook lovely dinners and be a social hostess on demand. When my daughter was 12, I decided I wanted to go back to university."

But she met with immediate opposition. "My husband didn't want me to go. He thought of university as a licentious place which would pull us apart. But I was determined and, first, took my A levels at a local college." She passed with A grades and then read English language and literature at Manchester University. "As soon as I was there, I felt like I belonged — as if this was what I should always have done.

"My husband did support me, in that he paid the college fees — I had only a small grant — but he deeply resented the changes in me and how much time the course took. I tried to involve him in the course and get him to meet my new friends, but he drew the line at that in a way that frustrated me," she says.

Professor King says: "Sadly, this does happen. Sometimes the marriage is already breaking up, although each partner may not yet acknowledge the fact. Husbands don't find it easy when their wives begin to change. What I see in mature students is that their confidence grows and they begin to see themselves in a different light. It disturbs the balance of the relationship, and for a marriage to survive the other partner has to be prepared to change the focus of their relationship and allow their partner more independence."

When Jenny Elsey from the Midlands decided to go back to studying after bringing up five children, she says, her marriage went through a very wobbly patch. It survived, however, and has emerged stronger than before. She says: "I stayed at home until the eldest child was about 15. I had been working as a chef but was made redundant, and this gave me a chance to sit back and reflect. I thought, 'I don't want to do this any more'. At school I'd never thought of myself as bright, because I'd failed the 11-plus. Higher education wasn't for the likes of me."

But then she went, on a whim, to a women's action day at a local college. That sparked off the thought that perhaps she could try for a degree. She applied for a business enterprise course at the University of Stafford and was accepted. "I was on a rollercoaster," she says. "I was 40 at the time and I couldn't believe how much my life was changing. I don't think I noticed I was changing too, but I was becoming much more confident and willing to express my views."

For the family, it was a seismic leap. "Very often I'd have to work all through the night. I'm very much a perfectionist. Looking back, I put myself through a great deal of mental anguish because I was so determined to prove that I could do it. At times I think it was very difficult for my family to understand why I had to work such long hours, and there were times when I knew that my husband Howard felt a bit neglected.

"Doing my degree did make me a very difficult and, at times, emotional person to live with, and that does put pressure on a marriage." Their marriage has survived, she says, because her husband was willing to accept a more independent, confident wife.

After her degree, Heather Pollitt went on to take an MA, then a PGCE (post-graduate certificate of education) teaching course. Three years after her degree, her marriage broke up. "At the time I didn't see a direct correlation between my going back to study and the breakdown of our relationship," she says. "But now it's clear that this was a factor, in that I changed. I felt I had the paper to prove that I was someone and it changed my outlook on life."

Ms Pollitt later became head of an English language department at a sixth-form college in Manchester. Like Rita, she also met her new partner at university.

"We're working together, writing a guide for English language teaching. Our relationship couldn't be more different — we're very much equals — yet we are both friendly with my ex-husband and his new wife. I can see now that we weren't suited, and my going back to university brought our different aims and values to a head."

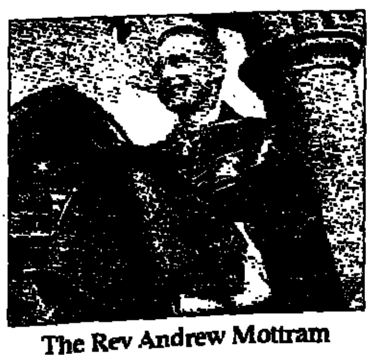
For Mrs Elsey and her husband, there was a long period of readjusting to their new roles. Her perfectionism paid off with a first-class degree and she is now working as a PA to a head of department at a high-street bank. "Now I don't ask, 'Can I go out?' I just go," she says. "Our marriage has moved into a different phase."

Mrs Elsey says that the changes university have made to her mean that while they both lead more independent lives, they enjoy their time together more. "Now our marriage runs on independent, but parallel, lines."

Uplifiting story of divine restoration

Ruth Gledhill discovers an inspiring yet earthly form of paradise regained in Hereford

THE beautiful, listed, medieval All Saints church in Hereford, complete with Lady Chapel, James I pulpit and Queen Anne reredos, positively hums with life. In the raised west end is a café with tables and chairs overflowing into the gallery, which serves delicious almond cake and hot chocolate. The night before, the church had played host to a production of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, but the remnants of Satan and all his works were now being removed from the church as normal service resumed. The organ was being played joyfully by a member of the congregation as we prepared for midday communion in the Lady Chapel. In the background, cups and saucers clattered and waitresses, including the vicar's daughter, chatted to customers. In the foreground, all was peace and quiet and the Rev Andrew Mottram emerged in chasubled calm to lead us through the familiar liturgy of the 1980 *Alternative Service Book*.



The Rev Andrew Mottram

Paradise Lost, part of this year's Three Choirs Festival, is witness to the maxim that the Devil has all the best tunes, but the story of All Saints is closer to paradise regained. When Father Mottram was interviewed for the job, he was so distressed by the state the church was in that he ended up shouting at the panel. Astonished then to be offered the job — in a personal phone call from the bishop — he decided this was a sign from God, and began recreating this church. It took six years. "I was appalled that an Anglican church could have got into such a parlous state of disrepair," he said over coffee after the service. He described the water pouring through the 15th-century roof and down the walls, inside and out, decrepit guttering, decaying plasterboard partitions and serious financial difficulties.

Salvation arrived in the form of grants from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as covenants, donations, trusts and fundraising events. The church has now been restored and was reopened for worship a few weeks ago, closer in spirit to a medieval church than possibly any other in England.

"Churches were then a meeting place, a market hall, the equivalent of the pub and the town hall as well as a centre of worship," said Father Mottram. "The divide between the sacred and the secular began at the Reformation, relatively recently in the history of Christianity. At All Saints I want to bring the holy back into the ordinary and the ordinary back into the holy. It makes theological and financial sense."

All Saints church, High Street, Hereford (01432 370414)

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★ *A five-star guide* ★

VICAR: The Rev Andrew Mottram

ARCHITECTURE: The 13th to 16th-century structure has been enhanced by more modern additions. Fascinating. ★★★★

MUSIC and LITURGY: Organ played in background. ★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Hospitable and wise. ★★★★★

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Simon Barnes celebrates the Serengeti migration, a vision of a past in which vast herds roamed the Earth

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In a thousand wildlife documentaries, we see wildebeest as comical, poorly designed animals forever being eaten by lion and crocodile. But within the safety of their vast, peaceful herds, they are the serene masters of the Serengeti

Majestic comedy of millions on the move

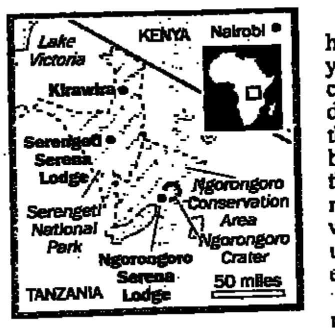
It is one of the great wonders of the world, perhaps the greatest of them all. On the savannah plains of the Serengeti National Park, in Tanzania, the biggest megafauna migration on the planet takes place.

"Megafauna" is a proper zoological term meaning big animals. Vast numbers of big four-footed mammals once roamed all over the Earth. Now the largest herds are found in the Serengeti, an army on the move, dust hanging in the air at its passage — but an army of pacifists, seeking only the youngest, freshest and greenest of grass.

The herds of wildebeest and zebra follow the rains, not the calendar. June, when I visited, normally finds the heart of the migration at the heart of the park, around Seronera. By the end of August, in the middle of the dry season, they have moved into the park's Western Corridor, and can be seen from the bush camp at Kirawira. For the next few weeks they usually continue to move northwest until they cross into the Masai Mara in Kenya, before heading back, southeast, when the rainy season begins in November.

The numbers baffle the mind. On and on we drove: horizon-to-horizon wildebeest. We would breast a slight rise to see a new horizon, a new city of wildebeest. There are two million wildebeest in the Serengeti, and 2,000 lion — who follow the migrating wildebeest. Which species is master? The environment of the Serengeti is created by the cycle of the rains and the great looping migration of the wildebeest. The lion are the bit players: the unwieldy wildebeest are at the heart of the matter.

During a short balloon trip, a side-trip from the main safari, a glorious dawn sweeps across the heart of the Serengeti. An American, chance-met fellow traveller, one of the two dozen or so in the basket, his voice hushed in unaccustomed reverence, says: "This was the Midwest, once."



I have been to Africa many times, and, though no one in the world could be blasé in such a place, I fell easily into an accustomed routine of wonder. But the sight of these impossible numbers reduced me to the same ridiculous state of gasping awe that I found on my first trip. We stepped, as the man in the balloon said, into the planet's past.

For much of the safari, I spied on the wildebeests' manoeuvres from a four-wheel drive. My guide and driver, Eliakim Jeremiah, knowledgeable about the beasts and their places of resort, took me deep into the bush, where we would also see non-migratory animals, including leopard, cheetah and elephant. He understood the needs of an insatiable, bush-struck traveller: indeed, he is one himself, unsated after 20 years work among the beasts of Tanzania.

To be with a vast group of herbivores is to witness — if you like, to share — a vast content. Large numbers reduce anxiety. So sit among them and savour the idle busyness, the air filled with their idiosyncratic croaking moo — gnu, another name for wildebeest, is onomatopoeic — until the herd sounds like an enormous pond of bullfrogs.

In a thousand wildlife documentaries we see wildebeest as comical, tormented souls: poorly designed beasts forever being eaten by lion and crocodile, whose pathetic, staggering, minutes-old infants exist only to feed hyenas. The Serengeti is seen as the ultimate theatre of cruelty, the wildebeest the pathetic victims, the butt of one of nature's nastier jokes. And they are odd-looking beasts, made, it seems, of left-over odds and ends of other animals: back end of antelope, forequarters of horse, upper part of the head from a cow, lower part from a goat, beard and all.

And every gait is funny, from the stiff, chilblained walk to the daft twisting and bucking galumph they use in moments of excitement. A herd of wildebeest is a perambulating bird table for carnivores and an unending photo opportunity for those who wish to take a snap of death.

Yet are they so unwieldy? A wildebeest must live within commuting distance of water. The daily graze and the procession to the chosen waterhole spell out the rhythms of the day. It is this brief drinking session that gives the long, peaceful day the Tabasco of danger.

So park in the shade and watch the commuters filing into the water, and filing away with dripping beards. The escalators at Oxford Circus, perhaps: and the air filled with the latest gnus. And then panic, as a lioness arrives.

As I watched the panic, I could see that every technique of evasion was a ploy also used in rugby. The little jinking side-step is the sport's classic method of shaking off pursuit. Wildebeest never run a straight line, always a curve — and so do rugby players in a close chase.

Wildebeest buck comically and kick out their hind legs. This combines the flashiness of the "goose-step", a change of rhythm that throws off the tackler's timing, and the brutality of the "hand-off", a legitimate smack in the pursuer's face.

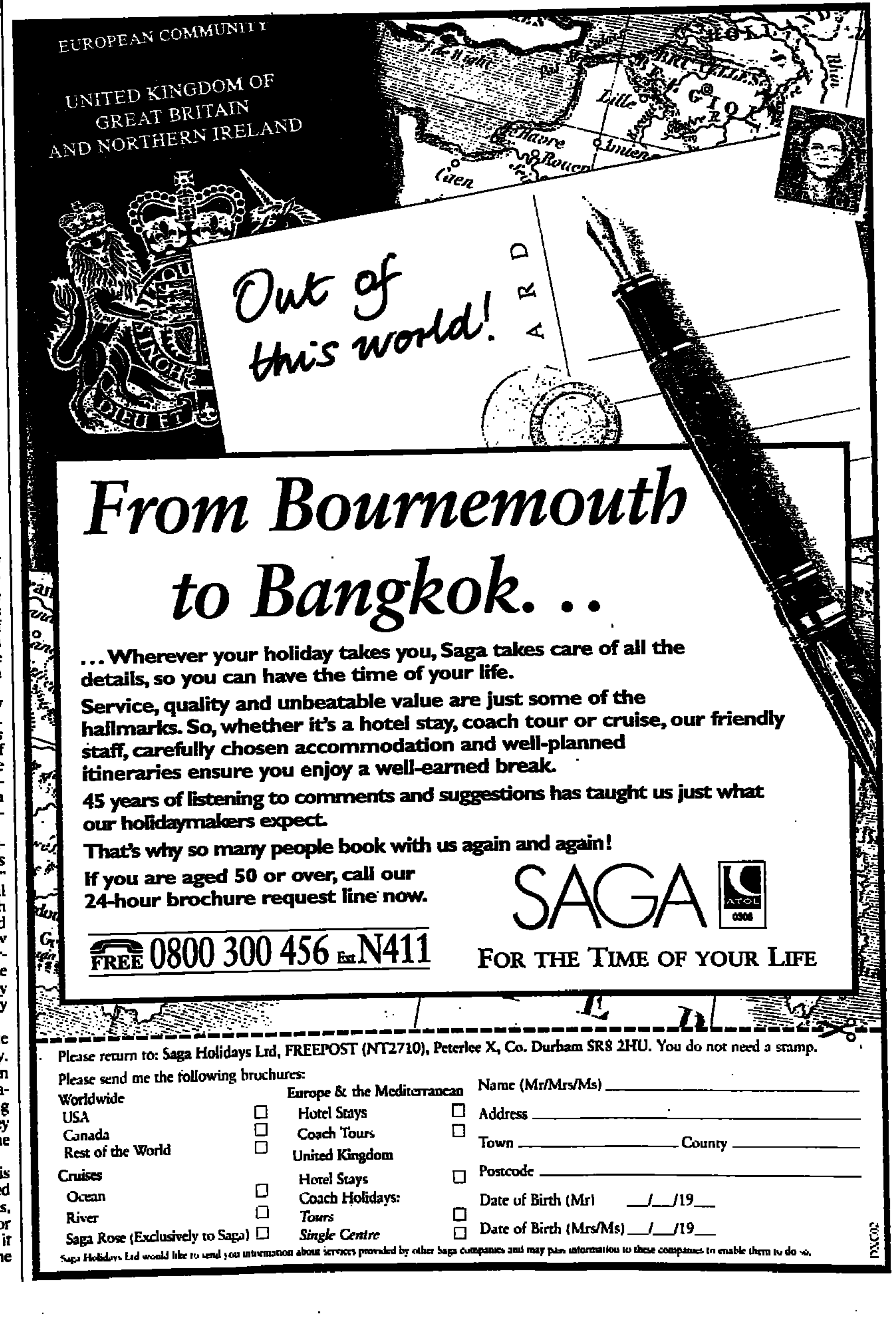
Finally, wildebeest constantly run across each other's paths. This is called "crossing" or "blocking" and it is illegal in both codes of rugby, though not in American football. And there was the lioness a few yards away from me, surrounded by dust and the sounds of escape. So many meals, and she not able to lay a paw on a single one.

The wildebeest continue their eternal circular journey, and spend almost all of it in peaceful movement and stationary rumination. Barring the occasional accident, they are the serene masters of the Serengeti.

Megafauna such as this now survive only in isolated pockets. But the Serengeti is, as pockets go, huge and, for the time being, secure. And it is, even for the most sated, the experience of a lifetime.

TANZANIA FACT FILE

- Simon Barnes travelled with Kenya Airways (0171-409 0277) and Serena Hotels (00 255 57 8175/6304). Fares with Kenya Airways from Heathrow start at £908 return, including taxes.
- Flights can also be booked through travel agents including Allison Brothers (0171-491 1866). Fares start at £441, including taxes, in low season (September 11-November 30).
- The author stayed at Ngorongoro Serena Lodge, Serengeti Serena Lodge, and at the bush camp, Kirawira.
- His week-long, tailormade itinerary cost £2,590 (bookable through Serena), excluding international flights but including accommodation, all ground arrangements, transfers, charter flights, park fees, meals and, at Kirawira, the balloon flight. The balloon trip can be booked separately with Serengeti Balloon Safaris at Serengeti Serena Lodge, £200.
- Tour operators featuring Serena Hotels: Somak (0181-423 3000), Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600), Hayes and Jarvis (0181-748 5050) and British Airways Holidays (01293 723180).
- Reading: *The Serengeti Lion*, by George B. Schaller (University of Chicago Press, £21.95); *East Africa Handbook*; by Michael Hodd (Footprint, £14.99); *Rogue Lion Safaris*, by Simon Barnes (HarperCollins, £11.99).



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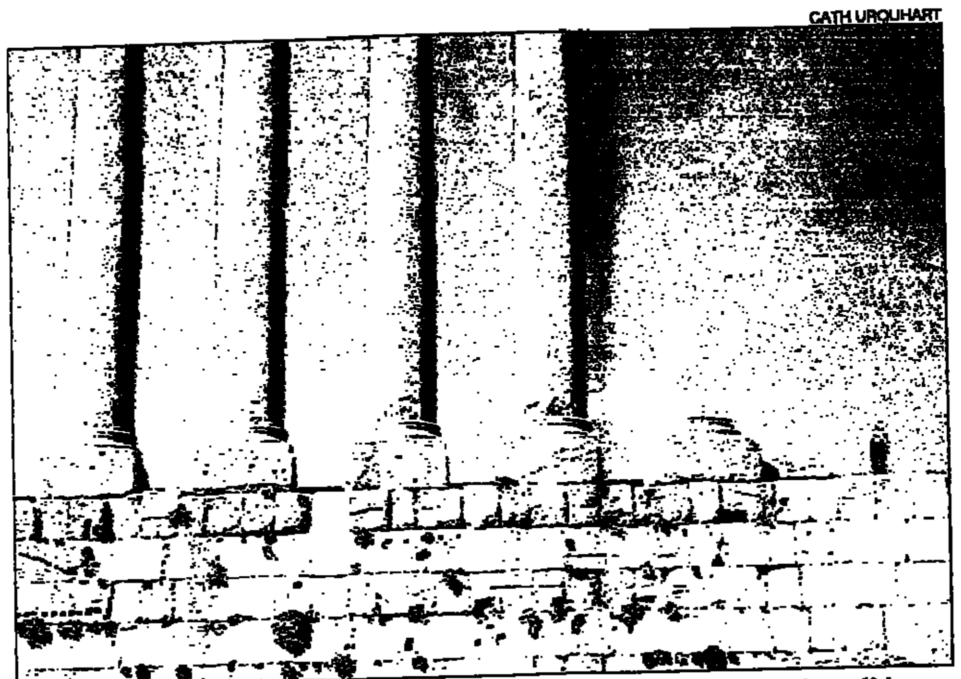
Visitors are warmly welcomed again in Lebanon, but there are still some no-go areas, says **Michael Church**

Tread with care among the ruins

CATH URQUHART



Majestic: the Temple of Jupiter at Baalbek, still in astonishingly good condition

In the vestibule of the Casino du Liban, the first thing that confronts you is an airport-style metal detector, through which you are politely directed to walk. "We were determined this should be neutral territory," says Nicholas Crabtree, the casino's British gaming manager. "Every other citizen in Beirut has a gun, and we didn't want our customers to feel they had to spend the evening looking over their shoulders. It's been gratifying to see how seldom the gun alarm goes off."

Once inside these marble halls, however, you could be anywhere in the world: the decor is swish international, the gaming tables hum with the usual suppressed excitement, the dark-suited croupiers exude quiet efficiency.

But you are actually in a place of huge historical importance. This was the focal point for Beirut's prewar jet set, and it has mythical importance for all Lebanese. Ten years ago, Jounieh, the bay it overlooks, was the artillery-raked departure point for boatloads of Christians bound for Cyprus. Just months into its new life, the casino is a potent symbol of returning normality.

A drive through present-day Beirut simply takes the breath away. President Assad of neighbouring Syria beams down from every wall, accompanied by a dead son whose picture is bordered with black. Syrian soldiers man checkpoints where you stop and explain your business ("tourism"). This is an occupying army in all but name, as much in control in the north as Israel is in the south. There are wayside shrines in the Christian areas through which you pass, but the checkpoints are decked out like shrines as well. Every so often you come upon tanks hidden up alleyways, towards which you are advised not to point your camera. Well, the same rule applies in Belfast.

This, as the brochures gamely put it, is The City That Would Not Die, which is exactly the feeling one gets as one cruises along Sniper Alley — which runs along the former green line that divided east and west — and on through what used to be the city centre. Now there is no centre at all: the streets on which the heaviest fighting raged have been bulldozed flat, ready for the new centre to rise from the ashes.

"This is good for two reasons," says my driver. "It creates jobs, and it prevents people from feeling sick whenever they pass the place where their brother or mother was killed. Bad memories are being rubbed out."

Well, some are: there are still plenty of buildings that look like gruyère cheese. And they are often fully inhabited, with living rooms exposed to the elements and cheerful washing lines strung across wrecked balconies. A vast Roman site has been uncovered next to one of the big Maronite churches: developers and archaeologists are at loggerheads over dozens of newly discovered sites.

The Hezbollah area, in West Beirut, exudes grim severity, with the local equivalent of Downing Street cordoned off by metal gates like those in Westminster. In the Falangist districts to the east, the atmosphere proves similarly intense. The Syrian tanks seem oddly reassuring — a sentiment my driver echoes. "We don't like Assad, but if he wasn't here, somebody else would move in. He's a guarantee the war is over."

Another guarantee is the number of grand hotels that have reopened, including the Marriott, the Phoenicia International, Le Vendôme Inter-Continental and that traditional haunt of journalists, the Commodore. I stayed at the Al Bustan, in the hills ten miles east of the city centre, partly because I love its aerial view of the city and partly to attend its annual music festival.

Across the road from the American University — now functioning without American students — I visited Anne Malamah-Thomas, the forthright Scot who runs the British Council offices in Beirut. Two years ago she was sent here to do a feasibility study on whether the office should be reopened after a nine-year closure: Her answer to her bosses' key question — is it safe? — had been a resounding yes and a second office has now been opened. "I feel safer here than I do in London," she says. "Look at the pot plants that have been sitting for months on my doorstep. In London they would have been vandalised overnight."

My own nightlife in this trilingual city — where you are as likely to hear French and English as Arabic — began with a visit to the Caracalla Dance Theatre, which was presenting a gloriously kitsch musical drama on the story of Dido and Aeneas. The house was packed and the audience members I talked to in the interval explained why. Alone of all Lebanese companies, this one performed right through the war: they are real folk heroes and the tale they were dramatising was itself a piece of Lebanese folk history.

Afterwards, I repaired to the Mhanna restaurant in the city centre for an epic meal. The savoury courses came thick and fast, with lashings of herbs and salads, and a hubble-bubble offered as part of the menu. For dessert we moved to a separate table piled high with fruit of every kind.

The Corniche, running along the coast to the north, was a forest of neon purveying messages of hope. We passed under a bridge proclaiming "A Cleaner World" and were repeatedly informed that "100% of People Ask for a Kleenex". In the Muslim town of Tripoli, on the coast north of Beirut, the Crusader castle is so well preserved and has so few visitors that it felt as though the builders had just left and the first tenants had yet to move in. South of Beirut, at the palace of Beit ed Dine, the story was the same: no Westerners. Kamal Jabbour, who runs the nearby Mir Amin Palace hotel, sadly confirmed the fact: all it takes is one story on CNN to frighten off visitors for months. When some Japanese terrorists were improbably rounded up in Lebanon this year, prospective guests from Tokyo cancelled en masse. Like everyone else in Lebanon's hotel trade, he was praying for the American embargo to be lifted: only then will business take off.

The scattering of tourists we found at the Phoenician town of Byblos, on the coast between Beirut and Tripoli, was no surprise. It is an exquisite little harbour, backed by some solid ruins where medieval walls stand alongside Roman walls, with a Bronze Age settlement below. It was intensely photogenic for there was a storm at sea, beyond which the sun was setting.

And what of Baalbek, once home to the greatest opera festival in the world, more recently home to Hezbollah's hostages? Our route there from Beirut wound up through the hills, past freshly ruined villas and Druze villages whose houses stare at you with blackened eye-sockets. Descending into the Bekaa Valley was like entering another world: sheep and goats, Beduin encampments and snow-clad peaks in the blue distance.

Baalbek was superb: the Roman temples to Bacchus and Jupiter are in astonishingly good condition, with the stone roof-slabs carved as though from the most delicate wood. The walls of one chapel carry "I woz 'ere" graffiti from 100 years ago, when Greeks, Jews and Arabs scratched their names in apparent amity. But there was nobody staying at the Palmyra Hotel by the temples' entrance: as the manager showed us round the elegant, wood-panelled rooms, he recalled the dancers and divas who regularly slept here. This, too, was like a mausoleum.

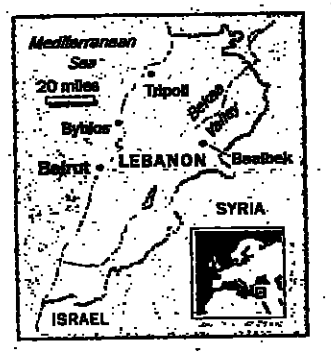
To reach Baalbek, we had to pass a series of roadblocks — some manned by the Syrian army, some by the Lebanese and one by well-armed, tough-looking "civilians" in expensive leather jackets. On our way out of Baalbek, this latter group motioned us to the side of the road and questioned our driver. The conversation went on for some time, with our driver looking increasingly nervous. Finally he showed his trump card — police reserve ID — and the interrogator backed off. What was it all about? "They wanted money." How much? "Oh, $20, $100." He shrugged in embarrassment. And if we had not been able to oblige? "Problème." The leader of the group, he added, was a Syrian.

This incident proved there are places in Lebanon where foreigners can feel at ease and others where it is unwise to go: you cannot just pile into a hired car and head for the hills — you need a local guide.

When I reached the immigration barrier at the airport, I found a conundrum. Four channels, for Diplomats, Foreigners, Lebanese and Arabs. The first two desks were unmanned and the third had a long queue. I went up to the fourth desk and was politely waved through as an Arab. Well, that was fine by me, because I was beginning to feel at home.

PANOS PICTURES

Ravaged by war: parts of Beirut were so devastated by the battles that they have now been razed to the ground to eradicate painful memories



GETTING THERE

- The author travelled with British Mediterranean Airways and stayed at the Al Bustan Hotel. Flights with British Mediterranean (0345 222111) from Heathrow to Beirut start at £346 return in September, including taxes.
- Rooms at the Al Bustan Hotel (bookable through Utell: 0990 300200) start at $180 (£120). A new wing has been added with 29 rooms from $145 (£90) per night.
- Jasmin Tours (01628 531121) has a five-night tour of Lebanon, staying in Beirut and Byblos. The price in September is £764 per person, including flights, B&B, guide, taxes and transfers, based on two sharing a room. Tours include Tyre, Sidon, Baalbek, Byblos and Tripoli. Three-night breaks in Beirut are from £536.
- The best times to go are April-May and September-October. Winter snowfalls in the mountains preclude travel: locals head for the mountains in summer to escape the humidity in Beirut.
- Most visitors are part of an organised tour, with ground agents in constant touch with the authorities. The Foreign Office said on August 5 that travel is inadvisable south of Tyre. It added: "Visitors wishing to go to the Baalbek region and to the north of the Bekaa Valley should use organised tour groups."
- Reading: *Guide to Lebanon*, by Lynda Keen (Bradt, £10.95); *Pity the Nation*, by Robert Fisk (OUP, £8.99); *The Traveller's Survival Kit Lebanon*, by Carole Cadwalladr and Anna Sutton (Vacation Work Publications, £9.99).

Beirut doorway

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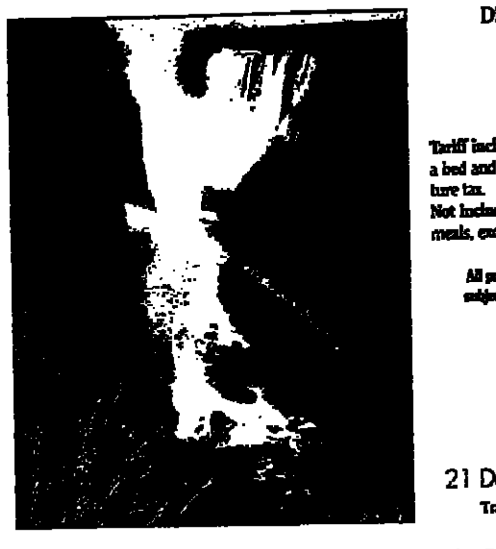

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

SINGERIE
A piece of porcelain or a painting in which monkeys are represented in anthropomorphic (often quasi-Chinese) attitudes. Work done in this style, especially popular in the 18th century.

PLACITUM
(c) The decree of a judge, the decision or determination of a public assembly, a court of justice or the like. Hence, the public assemblies of all degrees of men, where the king presided. Bryce, 1869: "The placita at which the laws were framed or published would not have been crowded as of yore by armed freemen."

PLATYTERA
(a) A type of icon of the incarnation, also known as the icon of the sign, depicting the mother of God, orant, and in front. Burlington Magazine 1944: "The form is derived from the Platytera showing the child as an abstract symbol affixed to, but not inside the body of the mother."

HEMIPTERA
(a) One of the Hemiptera, a large order of insects comprising a wide variety of different kinds, characterised by a suctorial mouth, and in the largest group, Heteroptera, by wings coriaceous at the base and membraneous at the top. Also called Rhymchota. Well-known examples are bugs, lice and plant-lice.

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Camping in France: In the Jura **Peter Brown** has an unexpected close shave, and narrowly avoids a mud bath

Hiding out in a real Jurassic park

Paying £10 to get covered in mud and *then hosed down* is not my idea of fun, unless I am watching, but my wife had wanted to do it for years, she said, and wasn't that what holidays were for? So she shooed the children and me off to the park and strolled *sybaritically* into the imposing thermal hall of Lons-le-Saunier to be properly mudded.

We were in the Jura, that chunk of eastern France famous for being Jurassic. It has oolitic limestone, folding hills, *strange walled-off valleys*, lakes, caves, forests and sleepy spa towns such as Lons.

So there I sat: on a bench in a real Jurassic park, munching mirabelle plums, rubbing my stubble and thinking how similar small English children were to French ones. Clearly, too much relaxation had jellied the mind, as my wife pointed out when she emerged, every pore rejoicing.

It had been a good holiday, made memorable by one great triumph and one extremely *bad decision*.

In two weeks spent exploring the foothills of the Alps, we had clocked a lot of scenery and four genuinely foreign sights: a red *squirrel* crossing the road; a robot with a red flag and a painted moustache controlling motorway traffic; a girl whizzing around a hypermarket on in-line skates, saving tempers at the checkout by finding the prices of goods without bar codes; and a counter assistant who knew 100 cheeses (beat that, Mr Sainsbury).

We had eaten well. Nothing *expensive, but at the stately* resort of Annecy, where the beauty of the lake defies all adjectives, there had been *tartiflette* — potato slices in a sauce made from reblochon, the hard white mountain cheese. In Chambéry, capital of the Savoy region, the tastes were fromage blanc and vermouth. In the Jura, the tastes were smoked ham, blueberry tarts and, at a farmhouse restaurant, *succulent* rabbit served by a shy grandchild.

The secret to enjoying French provincial cooking, particularly when staying at *campsites with children, is to* leave the youngsters behind in the evenings. Luckily Toby, 16, Matthew, 12, and Imogen, 8, through years of exposure, have developed a taste for campsite chips and pizza.

We had done a lot of walking and admiring. In the kitchen gardens, brilliant orange pumpkins glistened among the artichokes, leeks and beans. On one stall in the market place at *Clairvaux-les-*Lacs there were 62 herbs and spices on offer and nine varieties of olives. At the butcher's were home-made hazelnut sausages. A woman selling preserves from a table set against a wall offered pots of jam made from Jura wine and also, improbably, from milk.

We were staying in well equipped mobile homes on *campsites next to lakes — at* Aiguebelette, near Chambéry, and Lac de Chalain, 120km away in the Jura. The children had swum, fished, played *table-tennis and gone to discos* in return for visiting places of interest with us.

One of the places we had visited had been Aix les Bains, grandmother of all spas since Roman times. We had imagined Queen Victoria there, taking her clothes off and sweating. It was that sort of place. And it was at Aix that we checked our watches and suddenly went in search of a *phone box.*

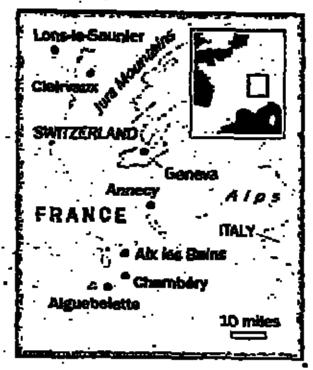
On a bench next to the box we prepared the picnic that would either be a celebration or a consolation. We could see Toby talking, though we could not hear him. His face was deadpan. By arrangement, his grandfather was opening the letter from the examiners.

It was only when he came *out and grinned — the first* real grin for a week — that the holiday began in earnest. Eight GCSE passes. No really bad grades and a few A-stars. It was a triumph indeed, *considering his teachers'* predictions.

Right at the start of the holiday we had given ourselves a treat, booking a *luxurious two days at the* Newport Bay Club at Disneyland Paris. It was fantastic in every sense, but something about the swimming pools, the rides, the processions, had *made me lose my senses. I felt* so young that I shaved my beard off.

Why I imagined that the pink fool in the mirror would *be the person who grew the* beard 25 years earlier, heaven knows. Shockingly, depressingly, it was not, as my family helped me to understand. Instant regrowth was the only *option*.

That was a bad decision. But then, it was something I had wanted to do for ages. And isn't that what holidays *are for?*



FACT FILE

- **Peter Brown** travelled with Sunsites (01565 625555). Its 1998 prices are from £266-£840 for 12 nights in a tent at Lac de Chalain, for two adults and up to four children, including ferry. Mobile homes: £412-£1,215. A two-night campsite stay at Disneyland Paris adds from £302 to the price — entry tickets extra.
- **Derrik Mercer** travelled with Canvas Holidays (01992 553535). A week in Perros, in Brittany, departing September 6 and travelling Dover-Calais, is £149; via Portsmouth-Cherbourg it is £240 (for two adults and up to four children).
- **Other operators** include Brittany Ferries Holidays (0990 360360); Keycamp (0181-395 4000); French Life (0113-239 0077); Eurocamp (01565 626262); French Country Camping (01565 626266).
- **French Tourist Office**, 178 Piccadilly, London W1 (0891 244123; 50p a minute).

IMPACT

The river Thiou flows through the resort of Annecy, whose attractions include *tartiflette* – potato slices in a sauce made from reblochon, the hard white mountain cheese

Camped out in comfort

Always inspect a house when it is raining — or so the advice to *housebuyers* goes. On the same principle, a week of rain and wind should be a good test of campers, especially for people like us who pondered long and hard before setting out for a late summer week at two sites in Brittany.

Were my wife Gillian and I, in our early fifties, too old for such a holiday? Was it the kind of trip that we could tolerate, let alone one we could enjoy? Would there be any other fifty-somethings there, or *would it all be families with* young children?

True, it was very much middle-aged, middle-class camping. The tents were already erected and equipped with everything from a refrigerator to gas rings, cutlery to barbecue. Everything, in short, had been laid on by Canvas Holidays with little for us to do for ourselves. Except survive seven wet days in early September.

We stayed at two sites. The first, *Port l'Epine in northern* Brittany, near Perros-Guirec, was a pretty site on the coast, overlooking a rocky bay sheltering a few tiny yachts. The tent was almost blown away by the strong winds of our two nights there, but we were neither cold nor uncomfortable in our canvas home.

Brittany was a further joy of our trip. For once a place lived up to its hype. The coastline was magical: we *watched fishing boats* go out to sea from prosperous ports and walked along sandy beaches in rocky coves that were remarkably deserted — another bonus of avoiding the main summer weeks.

The subtle blue-grey colours of Brittany entranced us, causing profound regret at what *has happened to* similar British townscapes. Here there were no garish high-rise buildings to displease the eye but there was much to entice the visitor, especially the older ones, as the towns on the coast recall vanished childhood memories.

The restaurants seemed good and fair in price, with crêperies a local hallmark and much delicious seafood. At Chez *Pierre in* Raguenes Plage, a small town on the north coast, we enjoyed superbly cooked cod and a gratin of mussels *as the* main courses of our Fr110 (£11) lunches in a room intent on its food. The dessert was equally special: a flambéed crêpe that was delicate and delicious.

A prime advantage of Brittany is its accessibility. It can be reached easily in a day from southern England and its winding coastline can be explored *to find places that are* special to you.

The second campsite was in the wooded grounds of an 18th-century château just outside Quimper. Terraced gardens overlooking the River Odet were open for us to explore, as were some of the château buildings, notably an old *orangerie now serving* as a stylish restaurant.

This second site was conspicuously clean and well presented. The lavatory blocks were immaculate, and there were spacious showers and washing-up areas for the campers.

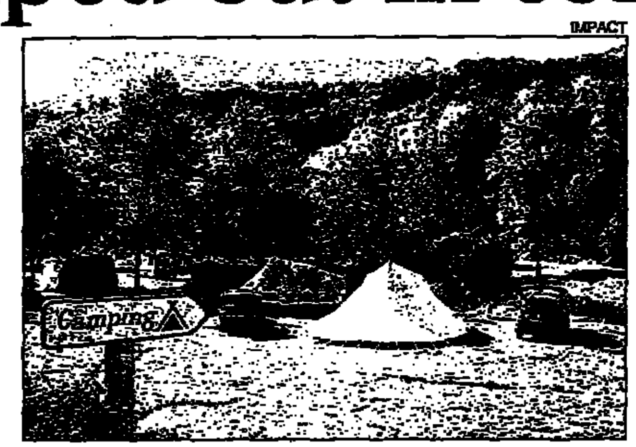
Sleeping in the tent posed no problems. We had taken both sleeping bags and duvets. The bed was comfortable and the tent was windproof. We could hear the wind as it bellowed above us, but we did not feel it. Rain was likewise confined only to our hearing. *Crucially, for us, it was* out of high season and therefore quiet, with both sites only half-full. We went at that time because we both love France and the prices charged by holiday companies in early September are remarkably good value. And *the strength of the pound, which once* again buys ten francs, makes France an even bigger bargain this autumn. As an extra inducement, the local supermarkets offered top-quality salads and fruit, so food shopping was never a chore.

Camping offers great freedom. It is up to you to decide at what level you want to live. You can go out to local restaurants for all your meals or cook and eat everything at the campsite. The *tent made* an excellent and comfortable base, with separate bedrooms for us as a couple and another for children or guests.

Having left behind our 21-year-old twins, Tom and Matthew, it meant their beds were available for us to store our clothes and suitcases. Not *that we did not miss them enormously*, but who wants a tidy tent? And there were no complaints when yet another day turned out to be wet and windy, and yet we managed to avoid the "So what are we all going to do?" refrain. Was it any wonder that we enjoyed being a couple again?

DERRIK MERCER

IMPACT



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Britain: this is a good time to be amazed by mazes, says **Susannah Jowitt**, who explores some of the best

This weekend, in a field of maize near Oxford, thousands of adults will tell their children to "Get lost" — and the youngsters will do just that. No, it's not a bizarre form of family therapy, but the world's biggest maze — nearly four miles of paths leading through 10ft-high sweetcorn — and it is open to visitors until the corn is harvested at the end of September.

The Millets Farm Centre Maize Maze, at Frilford, is a great spectacle. When I climbed one of its scaffolding towers, all I could see were the coloured flags carried by each family, which they raise when they want help. The Mazemaster sits atop his scaffolding tower to offer advice and, if you're really lost, you can climb another tower and call him using a Wombles-style plastic speaking tube.

In Shepherd's Bush, west London, until September 7, crowds of visitors are exploring Britain's biggest inflatable maze — a multicoloured bouncy castle gone mad, called Dreamspace II, which is about equal in size to 25 Olympic swimming pools.

Ever since Theseus tangled with Ariadne, a ball of golden thread and the fearsome half-man, half-bull Minotaur, labyrinths and mazes have fascinated. Traditionally, a labyrinth consists of a single path and usually has mythical associations with entrapment. A maze is more of a puzzle, with junctions and choices, often symbolic of a passage through life, or of fertility. Britain is the world leader in mazes, with 80 built since 1980, some in public spaces and others in private gardens.

From ancient turf labyrinths to hedge mazes, to brickwork floors in shopping malls to the new generation of water mazes, educational mazes and sanity-threatening mirror mazes, the range is endless. What is abundantly clear is how popular they are with children.

In the Long Maze at Longleat, Wiltshire, the air was thick with excited shrieks: "We're nearly there… Run, Mum." Through the thick yew hedge to my left, came a disconsolate little voice: "I'll never get there… Nobody waited for me."

"Mazes have always been a great tease," says Adrian Fisher, who has designed many of the mazes built in Britain in the past 17 years. "They should be an exciting experience for people, and different every time, as if you are seeing your own personal movie; yet it's reality and you're having to make your own choices."

- *Millets Farm Centre Maize Maze, Frilford, Oxfordshire (01865 391266): follow signs from A420 Oxford-Swindon Road. Open Thurs-Sun 10am-4.30pm until end of Sept. Adults £3, children £2. Entry to the coloured maze and rope maze free.*
- *Dreamscape II, Shepherd's Bush Green, west London. Open 1-8pm daily until Sept 7. Free. Nearest Tube Shepherd's Bush.*

ADRIAN FISHER

At this maize maze near Oxford, families wave coloured flags when needing help

CHRIS HARRIS

The neatly trimmed yew hedge maze in the beautiful grounds of Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, was planted in 1962 to an earlier simply connected design, and acts as a magnet to tempt passers-by into another area of the garden

Get lost with the maze craze

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The Ancient Turf Labyrinth, Saffron Walden Common, Essex.

Leave M11 at Junction 9a and follow signs for Saffron Walden. Open year round, all times. Free.

BASED on a medieval 17-ring Christian design, the largest surviving ancient turf labyrinth stands open to all on the Common. In a bid to save the turf, the design was reversed so that you now walk on brick paths between low turf banks. An 18th-century document records that young men would race each other through the labyrinth to win the girl who waited at the centre.

Hampton Court Maze, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey (0181-781 9500).

Leave the A308 three miles west of Kingston. Open daily 9.30am-5.45pm. All-inclusive ticket £8.50, children £5.60; maze only, £2, £1.20.

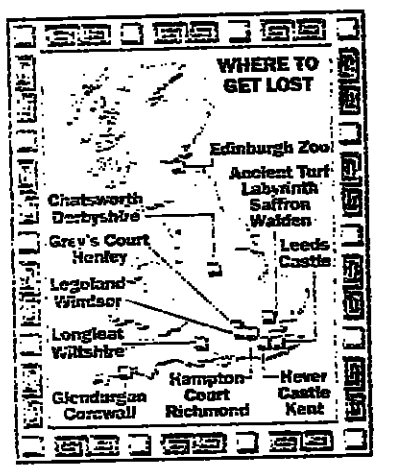
THE oldest surviving hedge maze in Britain (built in 1690), it pays the price for being the most famous by also being the most crowded, the most tired-looking and the most littered, with Tarmac paths and heavily fenced, straggly yews. The heroes of Jerome K. Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat* got lost here, but if you don't want to, just follow the hand-on-the-wall method: keep your left or right hand touching the hedge and, because this is a "simply connected" maze, you will eventually reach the middle.

Glendurgan Garden, Mawnan Smith, near Falmouth, Cornwall (01208 74281).

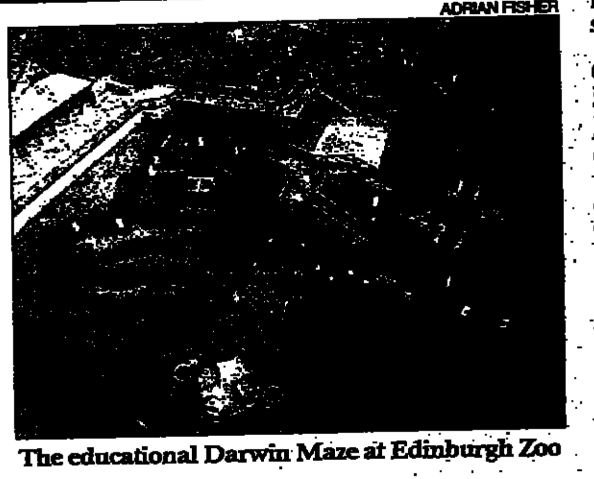
Four miles southwest of Falmouth, on the road to Helford Passage. Open daily (except Sun and Mon) 10.30am-4.30pm until Nov 2. £2.90.

CREATED in 1833 as part of the Victorians' craze for Italianate gardens, Glendurgan is one of three mazes owned by the National Trust. It is a free-flowing, innovative design of laurel hedges. Set on the side of a narrow valley, this is a rare example of a maze where you can enjoy first the bird's-eye view, then walk across and try out the route.

YOUR GUIDE TO **TEN OF THE FINEST** BRITISH PUZZLERS



ADRIAN FISHER



The educational Darwin Maze at Edinburgh Zoo

Hever Castle, Edenbridge, Kent (01732 865224).

Follow signs from Edenbridge town centre. Open daily 11am-5pm until Nov 30. House and garden £6.50, children £3.30; garden only, £4.90, £3.

PUT in by William Waldorf Astor in 1903, the yew maze has been joined by a water maze. The challenge is to get to the central tower and grotto without getting splashed by fountains. The moats, mazes and classic medieval castle make Hever hard to beat.

Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (01622 765400).

Follow signs from J8 off M20, four miles east of Maidstone. Open daily 10am-5pm until Nov 1, then 10am-3pm. House and garden £8.50, children £5.50; garden only £6.50, £4.

BIGGER and brassier than Hever up the road, Leeds Castle has a rather sterile, fiendish modern maze and innovative, though hideous, grotto exit tunnel.

Longleat, Warminster, Wiltshire (01985 844400).

Follow signs off A362 between Warminster and Frome. Open daily 10am-5.30pm until Nov 2. Passport to all attractions £12, children £10.

LONGLEAT is rapidly becoming the maze centre of Britain. It has Britain's largest hedge maze, with nearly two miles of pathway (although you do not walk this far if you find the right route to the centre), and cunningly placed bridges, spiral junctions and whirling lines all designed to confuse. Well worth the entrance fee, this maze attracts one in four of Longleat's 500,000 annual visitors. There are also three newer mazes: the Maze of Love, disliked by purists because of its nauseating imagery, such as the heart shapes cut into the hedge, and the paired Sun Maze and Lunar Labyrinth, still knee-high to a grasshopper, as the hedge has not yet grown, but charming none the less. An indoor maze using mirrors is due to open next March.

Archbishop's Maze, Grey's Court, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (01491 628529).

Three miles west of Henley off B481. Open daily (except Thurs and Sun) 2-6pm. House and garden £4, children £2; garden only £3, £1.50.

A MODERN turf maze. Dedicated to Dr Robert Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, what it lacks in suspense it makes up for in Christian symbolism.

Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire (01246 582204).

Follow signs off B6012. Open daily 11am-4.30pm until Nov 2. House and garden £5.90; garden only £3.50.

AS PART of one of the most beautiful house and garden combinations in England, the yew maze holds its own. Planted in 1962 to an earlier simply connected design, the maze acts as a magnet to tempt passers-by into another area of the garden, a device also used at Hampton Court and Grey's Court. Generously wide walkways between the hedges contrast with the green cool tunnels of Hever.

Darwin Maze, Edinburgh Zoo (0131-334 9171).

From centre of Edinburgh, follow signs for A8/M8 West towards Glasgow; the zoo is just past Murrayfield, on Costorphine Road. Open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 9.30am-6pm. All-inclusive ticket £6, children £3.20.

THE Darwin Maze is part of the modern trend to make mazes as interactive, informative and multi-dimensional as possible: it is an educational journey through the evolution of man, all in the form of a giant Galapagos tortoise. With its two decorative brick pavements — one a 100ft version of the DNA spiral, the other a portrait of an orang-utan against a burning jungle — its quiz trail, and the possibility that you will be made extinct at the Chamber of Natural Selection with its foaming fountain gates, the attractions go beyond the fascinating puzzle of the hedge maze itself.

Legoland Windsor, Berkshire (0990 040404).

Follow signs from J6 M4. Open daily 10am-6pm in Sept, weekends in Oct, closed from Nov 2. All-inclusive ticket £15.50, children £12.50.

THE three inter-connected Celtic, Tudor and Nautical mazes — they are hedge mazes, not made from Lego bricks — go even further than those at Edinburgh in their inventiveness. From the moment you step through the magically parting waterfall at the Disney-style castle portcullis, there is a giddying array of musical chimes, interactive features and more foaming fountain gates.

- *For further information on mazes, call Adrian Fisher Maze Design on 01705 355500, or check out his interactive website on: www.maze.demon.co.uk.*

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Cath Urquhart, the new travel editor of The Times, on women campaigners the tour companies could not silence

Fighting the bad breaks

As her aircraft touched down on the Caribbean island of San Andres, Brenda Wall was thinking only of the tropical paradise promised in her holiday brochure.

She certainly had a memorable holiday — but for all the wrong reasons. Instead of celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary, Brenda and her husband Garry, from Castle Bromwich in the West Midlands, were laid up with dysentery and salmonella. The beach that looked so beautiful in the brochure was covered with rubbish, and flies from an open sewage pit near the hotel swarmed into the restaurant and crawled over the buffet food, which was left uncovered for hours.

This month, three years after their disastrous holiday, the Walls — and 113 fellow holidaymakers who also fell ill on San Andres — agreed an out-of-court settlement with First Choice, the company they travelled with — although First Choice has made no admission of liability. But for Mrs Wall, 55, the story is not over. After successfully co-ordinating the San Andres claim, she has now set up a pressure group, Holiday Travelwatch, to help other tourists bring similar cases.

"I was inundated with letters from holidaymakers," she says. "The tour operators were telling them that they were the only ones complaining, or were offering them £50 compensation. But we're talking about people with very serious illnesses."

She is not alone in fighting for holidaymakers' rights. Over the past five years, several pressure groups have been founded by women who have been badly let down by holiday companies, and then found that their complaints were ignored.

Molly Maher formed Consumer Safety International in 1992 after her son Gary, then 26, died and her daughter Sheree, now 34, was permanently disabled when they inhaled poisonous fumes from a faulty gas water heater at their holiday apartment in Tenerife in 1985.

At first, says Mrs Maher, the holiday companies did not want to talk to her, although she had the backing of Labour's consumer affairs spokesman — and now minister — Nigel Griffiths. "But now we are past that stage and we talk. We inspect holiday accommodation used by British tour operators and ask them to improve it. Now there's a constructive atmosphere of support and co-operation," she said.

Mrs Maher believes pressure from CSI was instrumental in persuading the three biggest tour operators — Thomson, Airtours and First Choice — to stop contracting accommodation that uses gas water heaters, in 1995.

CSI has long campaigned for a European Union directive on gas safety that would require member states to make improvements. "We have drafted one," says Mrs Maher. "So far there has been too much opposition to it for it to become law. But we have not given up."

Jean Jewell, who formed the Single Travellers Action Group in 1994, is another tourist-turned-terrier, snapping at the heels of any holiday company that overcharges single travellers — and that's most of them, she says. "Saga is the only company that has really taken the plight of the single traveller to heart. Many of the hotels they use do not have single supplements. But many other operators routinely charge single travellers 50 or 100 per cent more for a room than they charge one half of a couple."

Kim Winter, managing editor of *Holiday Which?* magazine, believes these campaigning women are beginning to make a difference. "These organisations were born out of the sheer frustration of getting tour operators to do anything," she says. "So many tour operators seem keen to fob you off when you complain.

"We have seen letters from their customer relations departments saying that the holidaymaker is exaggerating the problem. This only makes people more determined to pursue their case."

Such indifference has made disaffected holidaymakers turn to groups such as Holiday Travelwatch, she says. "Brenda Wall got people together so they could afford to split the costs, and to give each other moral support."

The holiday companies broadly dismiss the efforts of these groups, saying that the introduction of the European Union Package Travel Regulations in 1992 had a far greater impact on their approach to safety and to customer relations. These rules mean that if something goes wrong on holiday, you can sue the tour operator in Britain instead of the local hotelier or company that was at fault.

Graham Phillips is a safety consultant to several small and medium-sized tour operators. He inspects holiday accommodation and ensures that it meets safety standards. "The Package Travel Regulations changed the whole ball game," he says. "Several years ago, operators chose a hotel based on factors such as its location, management and its architectural style. Now the key factor is safety."

But the three pressure groups were formed after the regulations were introduced. Brenda Wall's disastrous holiday occurred two years after they came into force. Campaigners say there is still a desperate need for pressure groups when normal complaints procedures fail.

Even some industry figures admit that the groups are doing some good. Martin Brackenbury, director of development and human resources for the Thomson Travel Group, said: "Consumer Safety International started off all over the place — but it is now a very sensible and intellectual group."

Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, says: "For too long the tour operators have accepted second-rate safety standards in accommodation. But now their tune has changed, because of people such as Molly Maher and Brenda Wall."

Says Mrs Wall, "Setting up this group was the only way I have been able to succeed. If people band together to take these tour operators on, they will have to think again."

> 'Flies from an open sewage pit near the hotel swarmed into the restaurant and over the food'

DAVID CAIRNS/MCLELLAN

After Sheree Maher, left, was disabled and her brother killed on holiday, their mother Molly, right, launched a consumer-safety pressure group

TRAVELWATCH

FOOD poisoning has become the dominant theme of complaints against holiday companies this summer.

Thomson has had to withdraw from a hotel on Ibiza after 20 people fell ill, and Thomson and Sunworld have both had to move people from hotels in the Dominican Republic following outbreaks of food poisoning and typhoid. Brenda Wall, who launched Holiday Travelwatch, is not surprised.

"I have had 5,000 people contact me this month complaining of food poisoning on holiday, so I am grouping together people who stayed at the same place so they can make joint compensation claims," she says.

The destination where holidaymakers are most likely to contract food poisoning, she adds, is the Dominican Republic.

"Hygiene standards there are not always high," she says.

"Holidaymakers must seriously think about everything that goes into their mouths.

"Make sure that the seal on your water bottle is not broken. And remember to avoid food that has been left uncovered, and make sure that it is piping hot."

- *Holiday Travelwatch, 190 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6QD.*

Brenda Wall: warning

CONSUMER SAFETY INTERNATIONAL

WHEN Molly Maher heard what had happened to her son and daughter on holiday in Tenerife, she and her late husband Peter flew out to investigate.

At first they were fobbed off. "The local paper got it all wrong and said that it was a husband and wife suicide pact," says Mrs Maher, 59.

"The local authorities said the case was closed," she adds. "But we are not the sort of people to take everything at face value and we started to discover what had happened.

"We kept calling for an inquest but there were many delays. Finally the Westminster coroner held an inquest a year after Gary's death and recorded a verdict of accidental death by carbon monoxide poisoning."

Gary Maher: killed

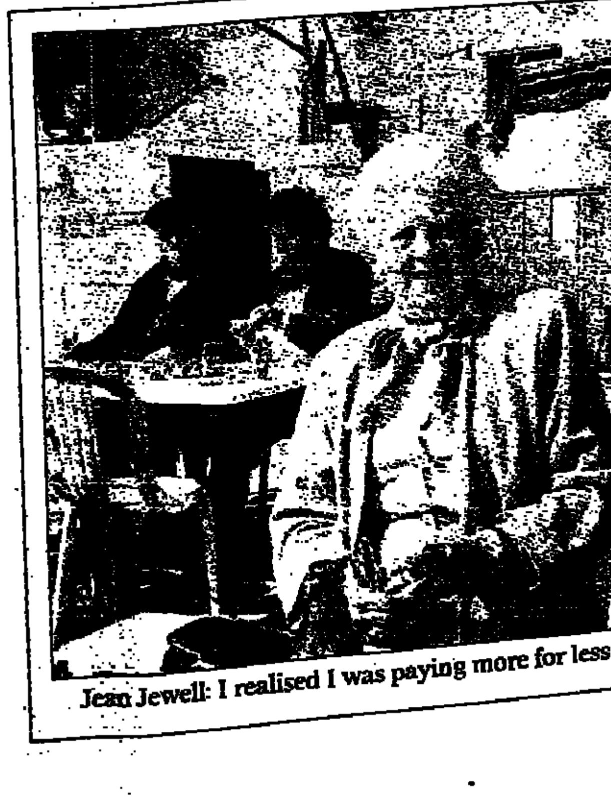
SHEREE slowly recovered from the incident, although she is still confined to a wheelchair. By then her mother had become convinced that something had to be done to publicise such hazards at holiday resorts — whether they be faulty water heaters, poorly designed swimming pools, or blocked fire exits — so she launched the campaigning organisation, Consumer Safety International.

"There should be a government-funded helpline so not only can you get emergency assistance, but also help in obtaining justice later," she says. "But there's no government department responsible for the safety of holidaymakers abroad."

Her advice to anyone staying in accommodation that uses gas-powered water heaters is to leave a window open, and to use hot water for as short a time as possible.

They should also avoid using gas-powered grills, and complain immediately if you believe the heater is faulty.

- *CSI, 92 Breamore Road, Ilford, Essex IG3 9NN. Tel: 0181-597 6263.*



Jean Jewell: I realised I was paying more for less

SINGLE TRAVELLERS ACTION GROUP

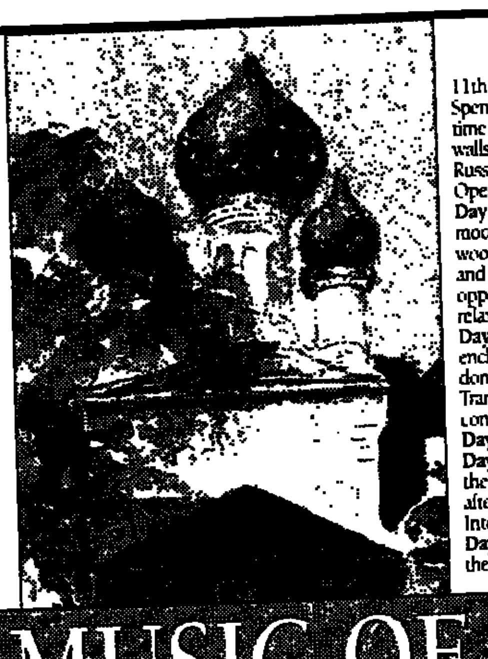
JEAN Jewell took her first solo holiday in September 1993, a coach trip to Tuscany, after the death of her husband John earlier that year. As a single traveller, she was given sparsely furnished, dark rooms in attics or at the back of hotels.

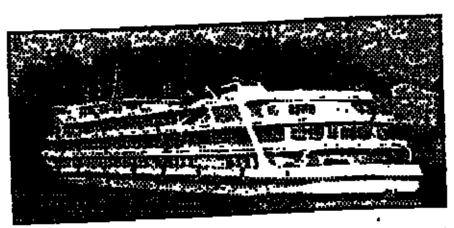
"I suddenly realised that I was paying more for less," she says. "I decided I was not going to put up with this for the rest of my travelling life."

Mrs Jewell, now 70, formed the Single Travellers Action Group (STAG) in March 1994, and it now has more than 3,000 members. She campaigns for a better deal for the millions of holidaymakers who wish to travel solo with a tour operator. Most of them are charged a single-person supplement, so they pay more than half the price a couple will pay, yet they are usually given "a broom cupboard by the lift shaft", says Mrs Jewell.

Companies often justify these supplements by arguing that single travellers do not spend as much in the bar or restaurant as couples. Mrs Jewell disagrees: "In a strange town, for example, a woman single traveller is more likely to stay in the hotel to eat than a couple, who will probably wander out to explore. Single travellers are definitely discriminated against and considered a confounded nuisance until it's time to pay up."

- *Single Travellers Action Group, Church Lane, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1HR. Membership £8 a year.*





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In the cities there will be special performances in theatres, palaces and cathedrals, recitals in country churches and on board our first class river vessel there will be musical highlights performed by Opera Interludes. During the day, whilst sailing and after dinner there will be informative lectures by the BBC's John Amis and we shall also be joined by a number of guest performers and speakers as we make our way to St Petersburg.

During the course of our cruise through Russia we will celebrate the works of Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Glinka and Rimsky-Korsakov, hear some wonderfully moving ecclesiastical choral music, and lighten our mood with traditional folk music.

Ashore we will see the major sights including the fabulous collection at the Armoury Museum in Moscow's Kremlin, the Tretyakov Gallery, the incomparable Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, and for many, a highlight will be the visit to Tchaikovsky's home at Klin where the curator will organise tours which will be followed by a piano recital.

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Day 2 Moscow. Morning visit to the Kremlin. After lunch on board drive to Klin for a visit to Tchaikovsky's home. Guided tour, followed by piano recital and tea. Return to Moscow for dinner, followed by a performance by Vadim Soudakov's Classical Choir at the Maly Manezh
Day 3 Moscow. Morning city tour including the Tretyakov Gallery which will end with a brief concert of religious acappella singing in a nearby Russian Orthodox church. Sail in the afternoon. Evening concert by Opera Interludes
Day 4 Uglich. Sail along the Volga to Uglich, a delightful 'Golden Ring' city. See the Kremlin and the Palace of Tsarevich Dmitry. Evening concert by Opera Interludes.
Day 5 Kostroma. Morning visit to one of the loveliest of the cities of the Golden Ring, Yaroslavl. Arrive in the late afternoon. Stretching for some 18 miles on both banks of the Volga this important port was founded in the 11th century by Prince Yaroslaval the Wise. Spend some time in the Church of Elijah the Prophet, its walls and vaulting are covered in fine old Russian paintings. Concert on board by Opera Interludes.
Day 6 Irma. Weather permitting, we shall moor in this tiny village surrounded by woodland for a Russian picnic/barbecue and an outdoor concert. There will be the opportunity for country walks and relaxation in this lovely setting
Day 7 Kizhi. Cross Lake Onega to Kizhi, an enchanting island. See the 18th century, 22 domed wooden Church of the Transfiguration, which is amazingly constructed without the use of nails.
Day 8 Cruising.
Day 9 St Petersburg. Sail along the Neva to the city of St Petersburg. Arrive in the early afternoon. Concert on board by Opera Interludes.
Day 10 St Petersburg. Morning city tour on the trail of the great composers including the homes or memorials of Tchaikovsky, Glinka and Rimsky-Korsakov. After lunch visit St Isaac's Cathedral and the Peter and Paul Fortress where the tour will end with a specially arranged Bell Concert. Late afternoon concert at the St Petersburg Philharmonic Society.
Day 11 St Petersburg. Drive to Peterhof, the magnificent palace built by Peter the Great. Afternoon visit to the Hermitage, followed by a reception at the Yussoupov Palace for a brief tour, champagne cocktail and caviar and a performance by the St Petersburg Opera Company. Return to the ship for a farewell dinner and gala concert by Opera Interludes.
Day 12 St Petersburg to London. In the morning visit the the Russian Museum or free time for personal sightseeing and shopping. Arrive London in the evening

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AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Single sailors go to Greece

SEAFARER CRUISES (0171-234 0500) is offering its first Greek Island cruise especially for single travellers on what is called a Cycladic Jewels holiday.

The cruise departs from Athens on October 10 and planned on the itinerary are visits to the islands of Paros, Santorini, Ios, Naxos, Delos, Mykonos, Tinos and Kea.

Seafarer's cruises are informal, using motor yachts which carry 40 or so passengers in air-conditioned cabins with private facilities. They are likely to appeal most to the 20-50 age group.

On the Cycladic Jewels holiday, each passenger pays £695 for sole occupancy of a twin cabin, or between £499 and £649 if they are prepared to share. Prices include flights.

Virgin Holidays (01293 617181) is now offering a number of special deals for the much-penalised single parent holidaymaker on a few of its American packages. At certain hotels in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas, for example, a single parent will be allowed the full children's discount in a family room.

A week at the Hyatt Regency in Los Angeles costs from £579 to £789 per adult; two weeks will cost from £769 to £999. These prices include flights and accommodation. If children aged under 12 share the room, they pay half these prices. Multi-centre holidays are also available.

■ **VISITORS to Rome who cannot face the unholy scramble to view the Vatican's Sistine Chapel might consider the six-day Connoisseur's Rome trip, starting on November 28, organised by art specialist Martin Randall Travel (0181-742 3355). This includes an afternoon's private visit to the Chapel, as well as other medieval, Renaissance and Baroque collections of post-classical Rome. The trip, accompanied by lecturer Hugh Brigstocke, costs £990 which includes flights, B&B, three dinners with wine and all entrance fees.**

African birds

FOR Chris Breen, who organises wildlife holidays from Alaska to Zimbabwe, the blue-capped carmine bee-eater is the most beautiful bird there is. The arrival and nesting of these intra-Africa migrants on the banks of Zambia's Luangwe River in September is one of the world's most colourful spectacles.

Mr Breen's company, Worldlife Worldwide (0181-667 9158), offers two 13-day natural history tours, departing September 17 and 24, to coincide with the migration and to spot endemic sub-species such as the Cookson's wildebeeste and Crawshay's zebra. The tours cost £2,080, fully inclusive.

Dummy run

REUNITING a lost and distressed child with his Easter ski class in the Trois Vallées a few years ago, I was horrified to discover that his class of seven to ten-year-olds consisted of 35 children.

Family specialist Ski Esprit (01252 616789) was similarly appalled at the child:instructor ratios and the "poseur" ski teachers. The company employs its own local instructors, who are "all prepared to double as nose-wipers". It insists on a ratio of 1:6 for the younger age group and 1:8, or occasionally 1:10, for older children. Five-day Ski Clubs are divided between three to four-year-olds (Spritelets) and five to ten-year-olds (Sprites), and cost £89. New half-day activity clubs run by "Snow Rangers" entertain three to ten-year-olds who cannot cope with a full day's skiing, and cost £50 for three days, £95 for six days. Nurseries with qualified British nannies for children aged four months upwards cost £115 a week.

A week's chalet-based half-board holiday in a choice of six French resorts costs £398, with discounts of 25 per cent to 50 per cent for children up to 17 years. Flights, wine with meals and a night's baby-sitting are included.

Drink 'n' drive

A NEW Hops and Vineyards itinerary from Inntravel (01653 628811) directs beer and wine enthusiasts on a self-drive meander from French Flanders, through the hunting forests of Picardy to Champagne country. Overnight stays are in village auberges which offer traditional regional cooking. For example, the Hostellerie St Louis, in the Flemish village of Bollezeele, is in an area that produces some of France's best beers; the Auberge St Vincent, at Ambonnay, gets the whole village engaged in the production of its bubbly.

The price is £287-£299 for the six-night tour which includes ferry fares for car and passengers and two nights' half-board at each of the auberges.

Bushman's life

HOLIDAYMAKERS are offered an insight into the life of traditional Bushmen in the Kalahari on a six-day safari in Botswana. Sleeping in grass shelters (but with beds, bucket showers and long-drop loos), learning the art of tracking and how to extract medicines from plants are all part of the experience, which is organised by a non-profit making Bushman Pressure Group, affiliated to the United Nations, and the Uncharted Africa Safari Company. The aim is to create awareness of the plight of the Bushmen, whose lifestyle is threatened with extinction by resettlement."

The six-day Bush Experience, which costs £1,875 per person (excluding flights), can be organised by the specialist British tour firms Africa Exclusive (01604 28979) and Cazenove and Loyd (0181-875 9666).

■ **HERE is a chance to explore Chianti country on a budget — after our political leaders have departed. Eurocamp (01565 626262) can offer tents and mobile homes in Figline Valdorno, between Siena and Florence, from September 19 until October 27 for a total of £465 for a two-week break for up to six people (two adults and four children). This price includes the rent of the tent or mobile home, and the ferry crossing over the Channel for car and passengers. Campers will have to drive there, which may mean an overnight stay en route.**

New York news

WHILE I was in America earlier this month, I noticed how many of the tourist guides spoke with strong foreign accents, and wondered what had happened to the all-American product. All was explained in *The New York Times*. "Niche for Newcomers in Leading Sightseers" was the headline. Seemingly foreign tourists want guides who not only speak their language but also "share the culture". At New York Double Decker Tours, for instance, all 15 guides are from other countries as they can "bring a cultural insight that few Americans can ever achieve".

However, for the all-American visitors to New York, all-American guides are seemingly still the best; the natives just want to know where the stars live, where the models hang out and what's playing where, while foreign guides "might take a group of tourists through the Bronx and forget to point out the Yankee Stadium". For those visitors needing guidance on guides, the peripatetic New York Convention and Visitors Bureau is about to move to 810 Seventh Avenue, between 52nd and 53rd Streets (001 212 484 1200).

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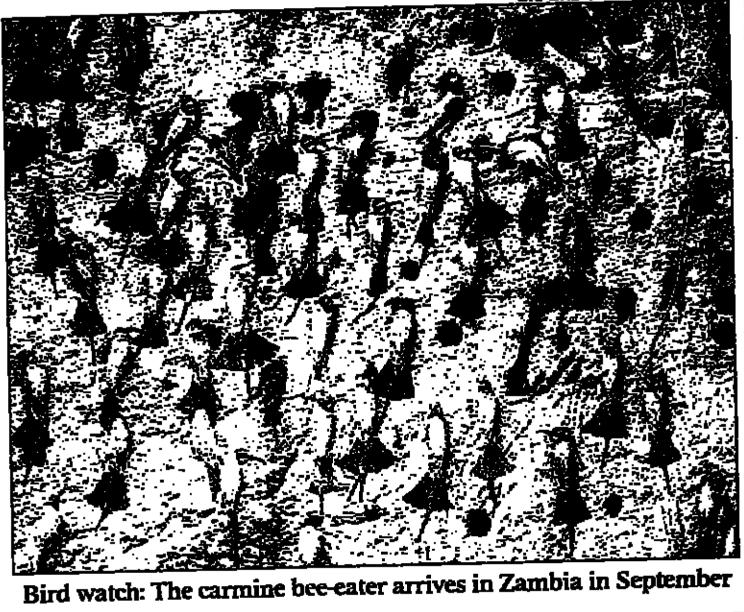

Bird watch: The carmine bee-eater arrives in Zambia in September

PICTURES

In search of ancient civilisations

LOGGING and agriculture in the forests of northern Thailand have caused enormous deforestation and loss of wildlife. Environmental charity Earthwatch (01865 311600) seeks volunteers to help research the problem. The fortnightly projects, between November and March, cost £1,080 per person. Volunteers are also needed to investigate the disappearance of the ancient Easter Island civilisation, whose large monumental heads, *above*, still baffle the imagination. The 15-day projects in October and November cost £1,350 each. Board and lodging are provided by Earthwatch, but travel costs are extra for all trips.

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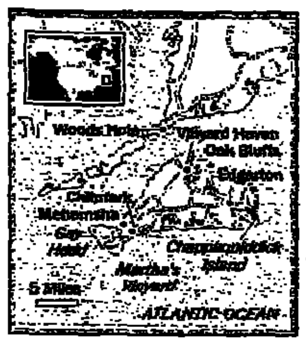
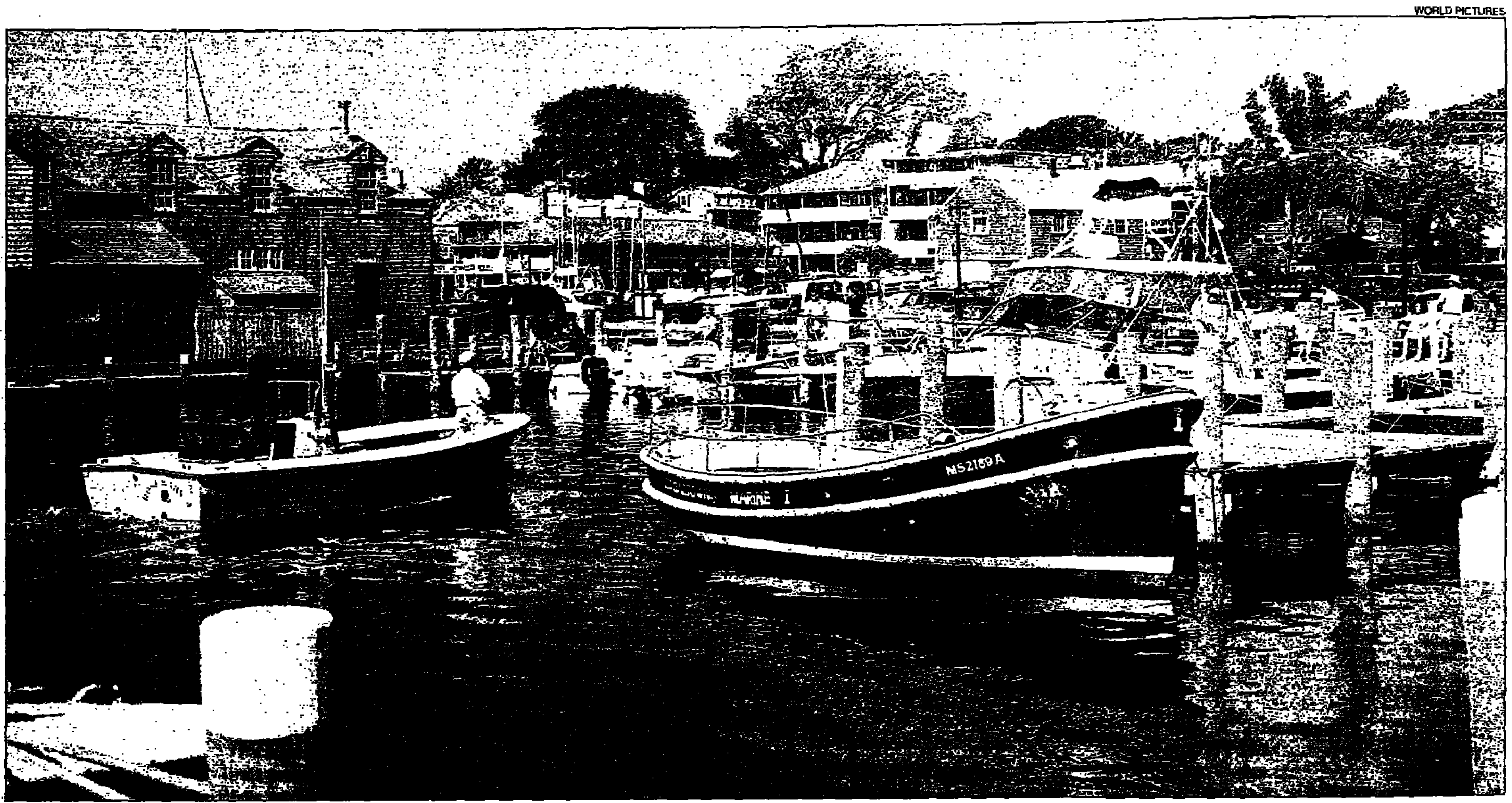
The ever-chic New England island still charms – especially when the crowds start to thin, says **Tom Pocock**

Sweet late harvest on Martha's Vineyard



WORLD PICTURES



Edgartown, with its pretty harbour, porticoed churches and white weatherboard houses built by 19th-century whaling captains, is the busiest town on Martha's Vineyard during the summer

Horny-handed sons of toil were scarce at the Martha's Vineyard farmers' market. The farmers present tended to be organic, female and middle-class; one had been an architect and most of them looked as if they had taken arts degrees.If not selling chemical-free fruit and vegetables, they marketed their own brands of jams, soft drinks or sauces such as lavender lemonade, pesto Vineyardo and a product labelled "Warning! May be addictive!", which turned out to be a delicious mixture of sea salt, basil, parsley, onion and garlic.

But this is what one expects on this little island off the coast of Massachusetts. Literate Americans from Boston, New York and New England have long known about Martha's Vineyard, so named when an Englishman named Bartholomew Gosnold charted the island for the British crown in 1602, and named it after his daughter, and for the wild grapes and berries he saw growing there.

The island is about the size of the Isle of Wight, some 20 miles long and nine miles across at its widest point, covered with woodland of scrub oak and pine, or farmland divided by dry-stone walls, and surrounded by sandy beaches.

Once inhabited in summer by seafarers (suitably, one of the oldest land-owning families is named Hornblower), farmers and Indians, it proved ideal for holidays, on which one could pretend to go abroad by taking the ferry for the seven-mile voyage from Woods Hole on the mainland.

Word got about and soon there was an annual invasion. Now the island's population of about 12,000 rises to nearly 100,000 for the summer. Its six little towns become very crowded — notably Edgartown, with its pretty, white, weather-boarded houses built by whaling captain contemporaries of Moby Dick, porticoed churches and a bar from the prohibition period, still misleadingly named The Reading Room.

Each town took on its own character: Chilmark is said to be the smartest; black professionals choose Oak Bluffs with its little wooden gingerbread houses; and Vineyard Haven is the lively working port.

Those who have chosen to retire or holiday regularly here show passionate attachment to the island. It may not be as beautiful as they claim, but it is charming. It is not spectacular, and even the desolate promontory called Gay Head, which has been turned into a tourist attraction, with its car park and viewing points, would go unnoticed in Devon or Cornwall.

There is much talk of country life and closeness to nature; sometimes too close because the woods are full of deer ticks, which can carry Lyme disease, and poison ivy. Verandas and windows have to be shielded by fine-mesh wire screens to keep out biting insects.

> As summer tourists leave, autumn colours begin

There is another form of infestation, which is causing far more concern to the ladies of the farmers' market and their customers. It all began when Edward Kennedy drove his car off the bridge over Chappaquiddick creek in 1969, was confirmed by the purchase of an estate on the island by the late Jackie Kennedy Onassis, and continues with visits from the Clintons — who have just spent three weeks here — and Princess Diana.

Other notables have sought retirement here. Robert MacNamara, US Defence Secretary at the time of the Vietnam War, lives in the seclusion of these thickety woods, and the singer Carly Simon and the humorist Art Buchwald also live here. So, no wonder Martha's Vineyard has become such a smart address with new money buying so-called "trophy homes" with guest cottages for visitors in summer.

The camp-followers come too, of course, and all year they can be seen photographing each other, grinning on the bridge at Chappaquiddick.

Yet much that is pleasant survives. New houses are built of wood and must be sited and built to conform. Virgin land is bought up by the island authorities to preserve it from development and to create nature reserves, well served by footpaths.

The original islanders, the tough farmers and whalers, might have been happy to sell what they probably saw as a bleak little island to the highest bidder, but the new colonists fight for the beaches with Churchillian resolve. They are vocal and articulate and their views are given currency by the editor of the island's leading newspaper, *The Vineyard Gazette*.

Conservationist battles are fought and usually won. One recent victory was over the Wampanoag Indians still living around Gay Head, who decided to spend the government compensation for land lost in the last century on opening a casino resort on the island. The ferry company was persuaded to limit numbers of passengers, and so limit the number of potential gamblers, and the Indians were persuaded to open their casino on the mainland.

This patriotism is fiercest when the summer holidays end, and half the houses are shut for the winter, as are many of the boutiques. Now is the time for the resident writers to huddle over their word-processors and cottage industries to stock up for the next season.

These include the Wampanoag Indians' charming costume jewellery made from blue quahog clam shells and, at Chilmark, a chocolate factory staffed by the handicapped, which makes unforgettable truffles.

The next two months are a perfect time to visit: as the summer tourists leave, the display of New England autumn colours begins. As the evenings start to darken, it is time to start browsing in the voluminous second-hand bookshop Book Den East at Oak Bluffs.

The celebrities and builders of trophy homes have returned to their cities, the scrub oaks lash in the tails of Atlantic hurricanes and the sea is at times too rough even for the sturdy little ferries from Woods Hole.

Then the skies clear and the night sky glitters with stars free from urban light-pollution. And at such times Martha's Vineyard is as addictive as that concoction of sea salt and herbs.

GETTING THERE

- *Virgin Holidays (01293 617181) has a dedicated New England brochure. The 1998 issue is out next month. Current availability includes two weeks at the Falmouth Inn, Falmouth, room only for £609pp, departing November 10, including hire car. Insurance adds another £294.*
- *New England Country Homes* (01798 869020) also has a brochure with inclusive flight, car and accommodation packages.
- The ferry terminal at Woods Hole can be reached by Bonanza bus ($17/£11) from Boston's Logan Airport. Driving time from the airport to Woods Hole is two and a half hours.
- Ferries are run by the Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority (001 508 477 8600). Summer gets busy — book in advance. The pedestrian fare on the ferry is $4.25 (£2.80).
- Cars, Jeeps, mopeds and bicycles can be hired on the island. Shuttle buses operate between *the island's two ferry ports*, Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs, and the other four towns.
- Martha's Vineyard Reservations (001 508 693 7200) can book inns, B&Bs and hotels. Prices don't start much below £100 a night per double room. The modernised Victorian Harbor View Inn and the Thorncroft Inn, a 19th-century inn with four-poster beds, charge $200 (£130) a night.
- Reading: Dorothy West is a member of the long-standing African-American community in Oak Bluffs. Her excellent novel, *The Wedding*, portrays island life.

  An Introduction to Martha's Vineyard, by Gale Huntington (Duke County Historical Society, Edgartown, $8.95) combines history with a guide to the island.
- Further information: Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce (P O Box 1698, Beach Road, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568, USA: 001 508 693 4486).

Island's peace lures famous

From the aircraft, Martha's Vineyard looks an unlikely holiday destination. Its beaches are small and rugged; some are better known for their red cliffs and violet sunsets than their swimming. There are no grand hotels, and few swimming pools.

Although there are large, historic homes in Edgartown, the old whaling port, and elaborately woodworked cottages surrounding Oak Bluffs' Tabernacle Methodist campground, most homes on the Vineyard are made of weathered wood and wrapped by wooden decks.

Why, then, do the well-heeled — America's First Family most prominent among them — choose the austerely handsome Vineyard for their summer hideaway?

Precisely because they *can* hide away here. Martha's Vineyard, nicknamed "The Rock", is swathed in oak forest. And its deep cleaving sea inlets create miles of hard-to-reach shoreline, accessible only by private right of way or yacht.

Add to these natural features the residents' tendency to pay the famous visitors little heed. "That," says Laurence Michie, associate publisher of the 151-year-old *The Gazette*, "is our mystique."

STEPHAN SAVOIA

First among equals: the Clintons sail with the Kennedys

President Bill Clinton this month retreated to an acquaintance's well-hidden estate, appearing in public only when he chose. Fellow celebrities — various members of the Kennedy clan, actors Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen (hosts of Clinton's 51st birthday clambake on the island), singers Carly Simon and Jimmy Buffet, author William Styron, and media figures Walter Cronkite and Katharine Graham. — tend to dine in or exchange invitations among themselves.

Consequently, celebrity spotting is difficult. The most likely place to see a famous face is the Savoir Faire restaurant in Edgartown (recently spotted: Styron and columnist Art Buchwald). The less publicity-shy Clintons visited book and clothes shops in Vineyard Haven.

From his studio there, artisan Travis Tuck has sold some of his large, beautifully worked copper weathervanes to familiar figures: a dinosaur to the *Jurassic Park* film director Steven Spielberg, and a winged messenger to an executive from Mercury Communications.

Meanwhile, night-time here is a much livelier affair than it used to be. Younger crowds bar crawl around Oak Bluffs, while big spenders fill Edgartown. Vineyard Haven has laidback cafés and the always-thronged Black Dog Tavern and bakery. The easy-going Home Port in tiny Menemsha probably has the freshest fish.

Everywhere but Oak Bluffs and Edgartown, you must take your own wine and beer along.

Martha's Vineyard may harbour the famous, but it isn't snobby. For most holidaymakers, the lighthouses, sailing, golfing, fishing, surf-battered beaches, winding roads and sand dunes are the enduring attractions.

ANITA PELTONEN

- *Savoir Faire (001 508 627 9864): 14 Church St, Edgartown; Mediterranean cuisine.*
- *Black Dog Tavern (001 508 693 9223): Beach St extension, Vineyard Haven; burgers, fish, chowders.*
- *Home Port (001 508 645 2679), end of North Road, Menemsha.*

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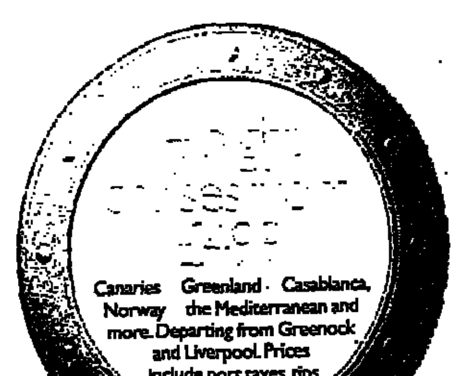

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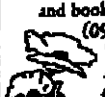

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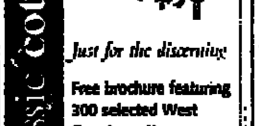

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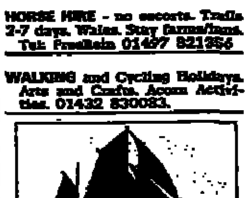

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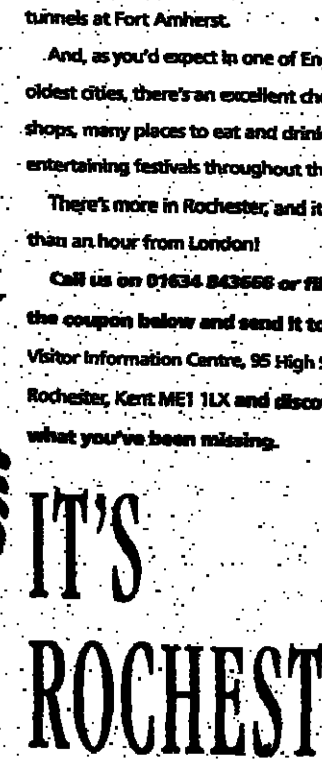

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE Mind Sports Olympiad at the Festival Hall in London, which finished last week, attracted world champions, grandmasters and experts in a wide variety of thinking sports and mental skills. A total of 58 countries were represented, with more than 2,000 competitors present on the spot. The chess events were attended by the co-British champions, Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler, as well as grandmasters Julian Hodgson, William Watson, Mark Hebden, Stuart Conquest, David Norwood, Bogdan Lalic, James Plaskett and Keith Arkell. The following game, in a sharp variation of the Sicilian Defence, was one of the most interesting and important from a theoretical point of view.

White: James Plaskett; Black: Julian Hodgson
Mind Sports Olympiad with Skandia 1997
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6
3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7
7 f3 0-0 8 Qd2 Nc6
9 Bc4 Bd7

White has *selected one* of the sharpest lines against Black's Dragon Sicilian. White's intention is to castle queenside and then blitz the opposing king.

10 Bb3 Rc8 11 h4 h5

This blocking manoeuvre became popular *after* several games from the 1995 World Championship between Anand and Kasparov.

12 0-0-0 Ne5 13 Bg5 Rc5
14 f4

In game 17 of the *Anand-Kasparov* match from New York 1995, White *played* 14 Kb1. The divergence here is more forcing.

14 ... Nc4 15 Qd3 b5
16 Rhe1

Massing his forces in the centre. *Nevertheless, this* natural move appears to be a novelty. Perhaps it has been neglected because of the possibility that White's bishop on g5 may become exposed. Hodgson immediately *sets* about seeking to exploit this factor.

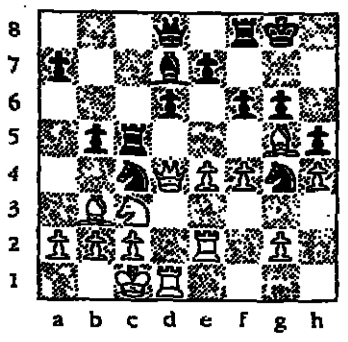
16 ... Ng4

Attention should be devoted to the alternative 16 ... Nh7. As played, Black introduces ideas *of* both ... Nf2 and ... f6 winning material.

17 Re2 Bxd4

And not the immediate 17 ... f6 on account of 18 Ndxb5.

18 Qxd4 f6



Black's strategy means White's bishop is trapped, so White unleashes the power of his central legions.

19 e5 Bc6

If 19 ... fxg5 20 exd6 poses Black insuperable problems, given that his knight on c4 remains pinned.

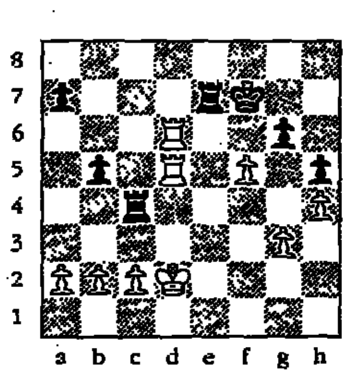
20 exf6 exf6 21 Re6 Qd7

In this case 21 ... fxg5 fails to 22 Rxg6+.

22 Rde1 Rf7

To parry the threat of Re7, but now *White can extricate his* dark-squared bishop to advantage.

23 Bxf6 Nxf6 24 Rxf6 Kh7
25 Ree6 Rg7 26 g3 Bf3
***27 Ne4* Bxe4 *28* Qxe4 Qc6**
29 Qxc6 Rxc6 30 Bxc4 Rxc4
31 Rxd6 Rgc7 32 Rd2 Re4
33 Rfd6 Re1+ 34 Rd1 Ree7
***35 R1d3* Kg7 *36 Kd2* Kf7**
37 R3d5 Rc4 38 f5



White's fine manoeuvres have led *to an overwhelming endgame and* Black soon resigned.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

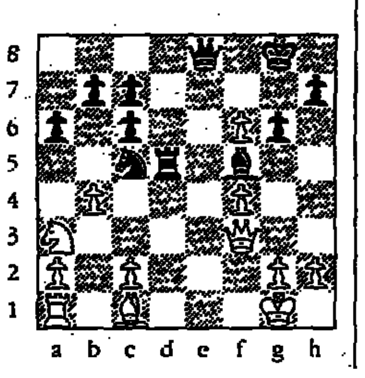
Black to play. This position is from the game Jimenez - Gligoric, *Palma* 1967.

Black has various reasonable moves here, but only one is completely crushing. Can you see it?

Send your answer on a postcard *to The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct *answer drawn on* Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qh7+

Last week's winner:
E Nicholson, Heaton, Bradford, W Yorks.



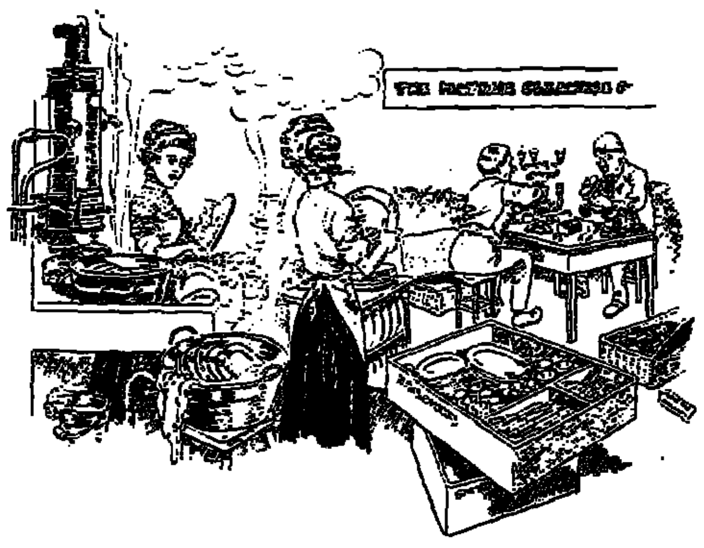
PUNCHLINE

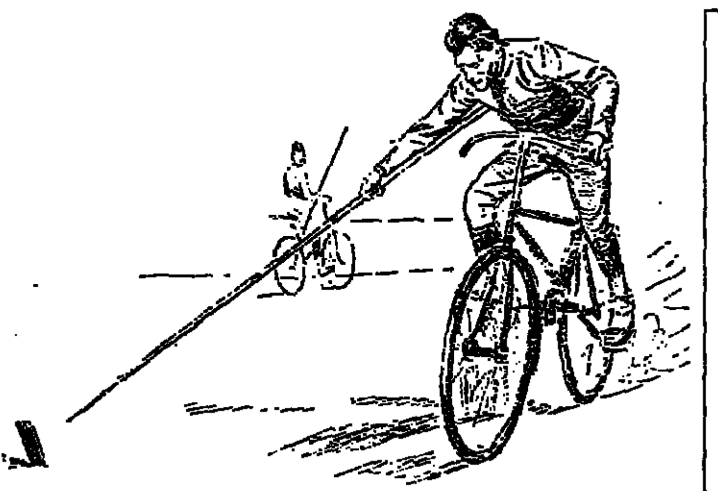
READERS are invited to *write an amusing caption for the* cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, *Marylebone Library*).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a *postcard with your name* and address to: Strand Caption 66, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. *The closing date for entries is* Wednesday, September 3.





Dodi impressed Di with his new method of destroying mines

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by P. Clarke of Coleford, Gloucestershire

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SINGERIE
a. A choral *society*
b. An ornamental device
c. A hairdressing salon

PLACITUM
a. *Soothing medicine*
b. Welcome news
c. *The decree of a judge*

PLATYTERA
a. A religious illustration
b. Marsupials
c. Lands below sea level

HEMIPTERA
a. An insect
b. A half period
c. Ornamental edging on garments

Answers on page 16

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

ONE CLUE to the correct defence is to ask yourself: would declarer *have done* this if he had that? It is not infallible, but would have *helped West* on *the second* of today's hands. To set the scene:

Dlr North EW game Rubber bridge

♠963
♥842
♦AQ1053
♣KJ

N
W E
S

♠54
♥AKQJ73
♦KJ2
♣92

W	N	E	S
-	1NT(1)	2S	4H
All Pass			

Contract: Four Hearts by South
Lead: the ace of spades
(1)Ostensibly 12-14, but see below.

West leads the ace of spades on which East plays the two, and West switches to the five of clubs. Which card should declarer play?

Clearly *after his vulnerable over*call East is likely to have the ace of clubs. *So declarer's best chance is* that West has the queen, and the correct club play is the jack. Declarer should also be ready to play the nine from hand, concealing the two. That may give East a problem even if he has the queen.

When this hand came up at TGR's, the distribution was somewhat different — *see the next* column: North was the exuberant *Australian international* Michael Courtney. If you challenged him on

♠963
♥842
♦AQ1053
♣KJ

♠A8 N ♠KQJ102
♥1098 W E ♥5
♦74 S ♦986
♣1076542 ♣AQ83

♠754
♥AKQJ73
♦KJ2
♣9

his opening bid, he would go all serious and tell you something about the importance of getting in with a pre-emptive 1NT when you are weak in the majors. However, the real reason is that he had just *returned from* the Cavendish tournament in Las Vegas $60,000 the *richer, and likes a bit of fun when* he is playing for a snivelling £100 a *hundred.*

When West switched to a club, as declarer held a singleton he put up the king. East won, and cashed a spade on which West played the eight. That was consistent with an initial holding of A87 — it is correct to play the card you would have played had you been continuing the suit. Now East had to decide whether to try another spade or the *queen of clubs. He in fact played* the queen of clubs, missing the point I made at the beginning of the article — if declarer had a doubleton club he would have played the jack from dummy at trick two.

Thus declarer also made a mistake — playing the king of clubs gives away the fact he has a singleton. He should have played the jack, *leaving open the* possibility he had more than one club.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

THE computer screen can be an unhealthy *snare* as it holds us captive for hours at a stretch to surf *the Net* or play games. There are ways to minimise strain and stress during lengthy stints in front of a monitor. Every half an hour or so it is a good idea to look away from the screen and focus on something on the other side of the room, which *exercises tired eyes.*

Place the monitor at a height that feels comfortable, and if you get stiff or aching shoulders, stand up and stretch hourly. Lastly, untie painful knots in the upper-back muscles by pushing your shoulders together four or five times: you may look like a flapping duck trying to *fly but it should help.*

Continually staring into the screen is not the only way to enjoy the computer, of course. Cross-over craft titles allow you to start a project on the desktop but finish it elsewhere with your hands, and for children they can be just as engrossing as a build-your-own-*radio or blow-up-your-own-bed*room science kit.

Anglia Multimedia has launched **Super Iron-On Kit** and **Super Create-A-Book Kit**. Each includes a dual format PC/Mac CD-Rom and materials for projects. I favour the first, which comes with a blank white T-shirt (size: "Kids L"), four A4 sheets of *specially coated transfer* paper and a small pot of luminous fabric paint with a paintbrush.

The delightful software runs with all the panache and zing of Broderbund's Kids Pix *Studio. Max the dog is your* amiable guide, on hand *should you get lost. Stylish* designs are simple to put together by sizing and mixing photographs with colour clip-art images, logos, letters and numbers. You can also import your own digital scans of *pictures and photographs.*

Finished artwork is printed — appropriately reversed — on to the treated A4 transfer sheets. You can use an entire A4 sheet for one large design, or carve it up to produce a multitude of smaller transfers.

The print-out is trimmed and, *once positioned, ironed into place.* After two minutes of gentle ironing, *the backing sheet is peeled away* — with tweezers unless you have asbestos fingers.

The revelation process is always exciting and the quality of the final print is presentable, if a little thin. The Super Iron-On Kit makes a great gift, which is appropriate since we've got a dozen to give away. *Read on for details of how to* enter.

***Barbie Fashion Designer lets you create* a glamorous gown for Barbie - or Ken**

There are two *previously* released titles in the Anglia Multimedia series: **Pop-Up Greetings Kit** and **Window Art Kit**. The latter allows you to design and print small colour transparency pictures to frame and hang in the window.

Girls rarely get software titles aimed exclusively at them. Even troubled Eidos Interactive's sexily independent Tomb Raider heroine, Lara Croft, is not really doing it for herself so much as for the salivating male majority that buys most games. One *rare exception* is Mattel Media's **Barbie Fashion Designer**. This includes designing software on a Windows CD-Rom, special printable fabric, silver glitter paint, colour markers and a selection of baubles and beads to adorn finished fash*ion miniatures. No stitching* is necessary.

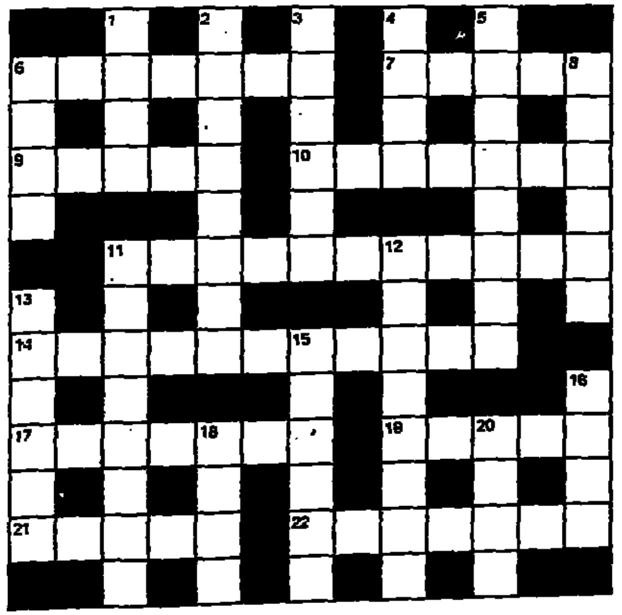
With this title, if you want, you can also join the ranks of New York's trendiest, who have taken to dressing up Barbie's boyfriend doll, Ken, as a transvestite.

*American book publisher Run*ning Press has entered the British *software market with four CD*-Rom Discovery Kits. The least stoic is the **Weather Tracker's Kit**, that bundles software and a booklet with the accoutrements to set up a weather station in the garden. **The Dinosaur Hunter's Kit**, **Lost Civilisations Explorer's Kit** and **Gem Hunter's Kit** *narrowly miss the* spot. Better to wait for the eventual import of other titles *in the series* already selling in America, such as **Grow Your Own Crystals** and **Boston's Museum of Science Inventor's Workshop**.

To win one of our 12 Anglia Multimedia Super Iron-On Kits all *you have to do is come up with a* great T-shirt slogan. The competition is open to all, with six kits to be won by readers aged 15 and under, and six by those who are older. Your caption can be long or short so long as it is thought-provoking or funny. Illegible entries will be disqualified. Write your slogan on a *postcard, with your name, age,* address and home telephone number, to: Cyberspace Thirty-Five, Computer Games & Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

You can also e-mail your entry to us, so long as it is clearly marked Cyberspace Thirty-Five Entry, at *cyber@dircon.co.uk. The competi*tion closes on Wednesday, September 10. Normal *Times* competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into correspondence.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1186

ACROSS
6 Lady's private room (7)
7 Inappropriately (5)
9 Place for books, old maids (5)
10 Multi-clawed anchor (7)
11 (Living) rurally remote (2,3,6)
14 In cahoots (4,2,5)
17 Huge (7)
19 Tradesman: Sherlock Holmes's street (5)
21 Nairobi its capital (5)
22 Harmony (7)

DOWN
1 Stratagem (4)
2 Bits thrown at happy couple (8)
3 Shoe: accent (6)
4 Maori, All-Black war-dance (4)
5 *Highest point*: eg spire on tower (8)
6 Part-statue: broken (4)
8 Send water over (6)
11 State of shame (8)
12 *Instrument*, has slide (8)
13 Cower: psychiatrist (*colloq.*) (6)
15 "The glory that was —" (*Poe*) (6)
16 Lattice (4)
18 *Close: mean* (4)
20 John —, Presbyterian founder: sounds like *raps* (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1185

ACROSS: 1 Gratis 5 Defect 8 Even 9 Nuneaton 10 Density 11 Vodka 13 Ad infinitum 16 Coupe (Coupé) 18 Confuse 21 Effusive 22 Vain 23 Drudge 24 Tureen

DOWN: 2 Riviera 3 Tongs 4 Sanctify 5 Dank 6 Flat out 7 Cloak 12 Indolent 14 Impound 15 Missive 17 Offer 19 Fiver 20 Wipe

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3425 Carte Blanche Plus by Ploutos

THE diagram is symmetrical, all clues are presented in conventional order — except for four pairs of clues where the starting point is the same. Here the clues (again in conventional order) lead to a pair of words — if a conjunctional "and" seems appropriate it has not been clued — one of which must be encoded before entry. *Solvers may find it helpful to add bars and* numbers, but this is not essential. Two answers are not in *Chambers 1993* (otherwise recommended).

PAIRS

Pets thrown out in the storm?
Twins delivered by excellent wife, without question.
Enraged repugnance *at almost daily shows* — film unsuitable for children.
Bosom pals, but one rival lord can split them up.

NORMAL CLUES

Rolling Stones? Hardly, they're a female group.
Colourful bird, gold and bluish purple, except head and tail.
Mission half-dead, right? No, it was totally destroyed.
Indulges in kissing in square after second drink.
Insidiously corrupt with filthy lucre.
Conspire with runner getting round backward constable.
Invalid lies up (it's gingival cancer).
Note, high-up, nest-building kites.
Dashing swindle coming to maturity.
Rocket forward with one about.
Was left without a shilling.
Weak drive against poverty, we hear.
Mix in proper proportions advanced emulsion.
Fuel — in the field, not piles outside.
It may come broken, perhaps, meek it may not.
Pick up a remedy for toothache.
Observations that produce blushes without cause.
Baby that's spoilt gets crayfish.
Bill admitted gravity of writing in stone.
In a frenzy, a mess.
Cares desperately about left-footer (less frequently found).
Seaman is regularly treated thus (not in public) by unruly youth.
Bedraggled conifer by the glacier's edge.
Amino acid, one in a series.
Turned aside injured veteran, practically dead.
Make a show of power and social standing.
At the back, apparently, embracing two loves.
Distressed animal produces litter.

1 Q	2 U	E	3 E	4 N	M	5 A	6 R	7 G	8 A	9 R	E	10 T
11 I	N	C	E	E	12 T	13 W	A	R	R	I	O	R
14 B	I	N	D	E	R	O	15 D	O	G	A	T	E
L	S	16 M	O	D	E	M	E	G	Y	17 Y	A	M
18 A	E	R	19 A	N	K	20 A	R	A	R	O	B	A
	X	21 O	N	22 C	E	N	23 S	N	I	G	24 D	
25 P	H	O	T	O	P	S	26 M	N	A	27 I	O	28 S
29 O	F	F	I	T	30 P	31 H	O	32 G	E	N	G	T
33 S	E	34 A	B	E	E	I	35 G	U	36 I	N	E	A
37 I	N	B	O	A	R	D	S	F	38 V	I	A	L
39 T	H	E	D	U	K	E	O	F	Y	O	R	K

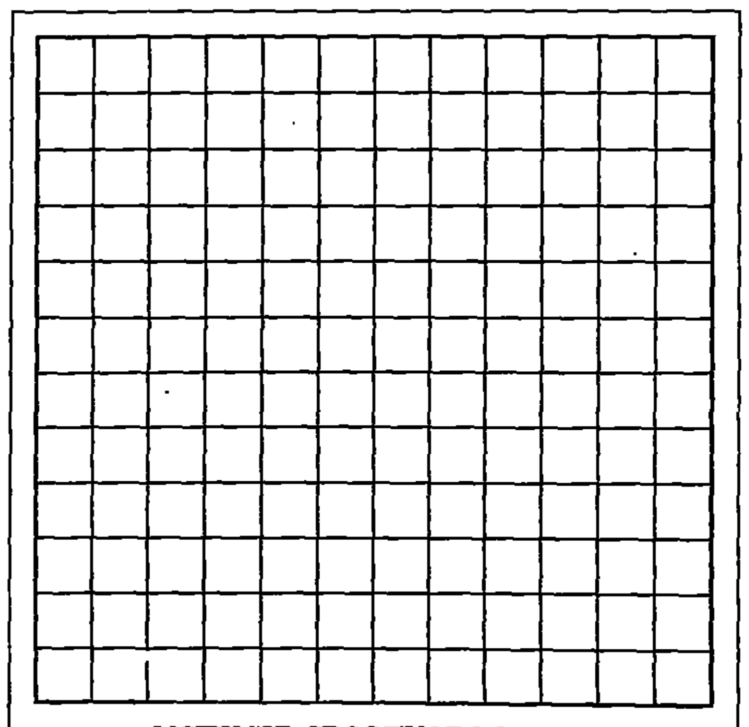
Solution to No 3422: The Plays of the Bard - IV by Salamanca

"O tiger's heart wrapp'd in a woman's hide" — o + (ti)g(er) in clued answers gran, date, Yin, dear, MS, hen: "Off with his head" — Y (i.e. head of York, removed from answers.

ACROSS: 11 yince; in ce/ vi(t)al. 13 R Rio in war/ in + board. 14 bindery; b i' + red n rev./hidden. 15 d a te/ S ea bee. 16 ode in m,m/ inits. 17 may rev./ of + f(ellow). 18 aery; anag./o in i.s. 19 Yank; n in Ak/an m. rev. 20 *arar + rev Abo/ p(owder) hot op S.* 21 c in one/S + rev. gin.

DOWN: 1 i in QB la/s(moky) talk. 2 Uni's *ex*/anag. 3 yeed: *d(aring), dee* rev./ I vy. 4 needy; anag./ guff(a w). 6 a in rd E/perky. 7 g(amekeeper) ran/ cot + eau. 8 anag. + rev. air/ antibody; anag. 9 (a)r(r)i(v)a(l)/ b(reak) in ea rev. 10 anag/OS in pit. 12 t re k/m(in)s. 16 o in form rev./hidden.

The winner is Ray Parry-Morris of Maidenhead, Berkshire. The five runners-up are: S.V. Richards of Huddersfield; R. Lawther of Lancaster; M. Wood of Orpington, Kent; J.H.C. Leach of London; R. Thomas of Bercloux, France.



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LADIES

ACCOUNTANT, 46, Oriental, attractive, small, smart, childless. Seeks English gentleman under 56 *for* friendship/marriage. London/Kent. Please Reply to Box No 6924

ARE you my very Special Man? Warmhearted, exciting 50+. Will you be my *forever* friend & lover? Me - exceptionally loving, caring, slim, attractive, cheerful, intelligent, feminine - London based - looking for genuine partnership of fun, laughter, exploring & travelling the world together. Phone no. & photo please to Box No 7045 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent, warm woman, 40's professionally employed happy Londoner seeks mature companionable more-than-solvent n/s tall gentleman for lighthearted but *meaningful sharing of arts/* opera, dining in and out, weekends away and other mutually enjoyable good things. Warmth and humour more important than looks. Box No 6951 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE 45 yr old black lady, enjoys cooking, nice lifestyle, etc, etc, seeking refined gentleman who enjoys travel. Box No 6936 ☎ ✍

BLACK lady 36 WLTM a honest kind man 6'+, 35-46. London. Photo Box No 7125 ☎ ✍

CHINESE pretty lady, London based, professional educated considerate, mid 20's WLTM a successful, intelligent, caring gentleman, of integrity 35+ for romance leading to marriage. Photo appreciated. Box No 7121 ☎ ✍

COMMITTED Christian widower, mid 60's, West Country, N/S, domesticated, sensitive, considerate. Enjoys travel (France & Switzerland), photography & many other things. WLTM lady 40-60. Box No 6833 ☎ ✍

COSTA DEL SOL tall, sun loving lady 56, N/S, tennis WLTM likely mate *for* fun. Photo to Box No 7037 ☎ ✍

CREATIVE woman writer, a thinker, warm, tall, attractive. Enjoys theatre, music, tennis, walking, people-watching over a pastis, seeks unattached 45-50ish man for loving relationship. London. Photo apprec. to Box No 7052 ☎ ✍

DIVORCED, *Black African*, extremely youthful. North London resident, polite, smart, workaholic, with GSOH, jazz enthusiast who can be taken everywhere. WLTM n/s, tallish, 55-60, successful, caring cosmopolitan male for sincere friendship. Recent photo appreciated and all letters answered. Please Reply to Box No 7070 ☎ ✍

DUBLIN attractive solvent widow (45), many interests (golf, horseriding, sailing, etc), children grown, not yet past her amuse-by-date seeks sane solvent available man with GSOH. Response & photo to Box No 7054 ☎ ✍

ECLECTIC *feline*, sensitive prof lady 37, SE Kent seeks soulmate to share zest for life. Box No 7137 ☎ ✍

ELEGANT, well-travelled, arts-orientated, slim woman seeks sincere successful companion to 60. London or near. Photo please to Box No 7104 ☎ ✍

FABULOUS *fifties* freedom - fledglings flown. Graduate (French/international relations), 51, living Kent, seeks non PC mentor for love, laughter commitment. Happy relocate summer climes. Please Reply to Box No 7143 ☎ ✍

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GENTLEMEN - look no further! If you live in the West Midlands/Warwickshire. Call Elite Introductions now. The professional, confidential service with free membership to Elite Leisure. 0121 323 3314

INDIAN, professional, attractive, 53, outgoing, *Dr, diverse interests* WLTM professional gentleman, N/S, unattached 50-58, GSOH, caring and honest for friendship and maybe more. London based. ALA. Photo please to Box No 7048 ☎ ✍

LEGGY lovely spontaneous well travelled Nutcase with feet on ground & grown up progeny. At home at the Ritz or Joe's Cafe with Mozart or Madonna but prefers English setters to poodles. Seeks successful tall mate (40-60) with soul. Southeast. Photo plse. Box 7148 ☎ ✍

LIFE is good but it could be better! Are you young 70s and interested in an occasional outing? I'm widowed, come from a rural background, am small & fair, live near London. Box 7146 ☎ ✍

LIVELY, attractive, travelled lady, slim, 28, broad interests, happy in a ballgown or jeans. Seeking N/S gentleman attractive inside and out with a love of life, GSOH Please Reply with recent photo to Box No 7052 ☎ ✍

LOVELY *black female*, 26. Londonbased, tall, graceful & witty. Seeks affluent gentleman 36+ who believes in traditional family values. Photo plse to Box No 7077 ☎ ✍

MEN It's simple one free call equals 950 eligible attractive ladies plus an active social life at Club Encounters. Call 0800 141 141 open 7 days

PROFESSIONAL lady, Scottish, widowed, 61, committed Christian with live Church connection WLTM professional *gentleman 55-65, single or* widowed (but not divorced), similar background. Box No 7147 ☎ ✍

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SUSSEX unattached lady energetic and attractive, n/s, GSOH, enjoys good music, travel and lively conversation. WLTM fit and active gentleman 55-65 of liberal and tolerant outlook Write to: Club Encounters with a photo to Box no 7050

VIVACIOUS brunette, attractive & slim with country interests, 36, seeks to abandon City career to pursue traditional relationship with successful, confident, fun-loving gentleman. Please Reply to Box No 7128 ☎ ✍

WOULD like very much to meet 58-65 yr old with sparkle, bright but tolerant, fit, into cinema, theatre, opera, books, National Trust, dinner in town, picnics in the country. Bridge a bonus. Hispanophile? Linguist? N.S. pref. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 6957 ☎ ✍

ZZZzzz Wake up! Club Encounters is open Saturday & Sunday Call free 0800 141 141

HEDONIST seeks soulmate. Attractive brunette with very blue eyes (35) has wicked sense of humour, needs romance, fun & to be spoilt. London. Please Reply with photo to Box No 6714 ☎ ✍

LIVELY lady, 51, slim, attractive, N/S, with no ties, seeks caring gentleman 50-59 for long term happy relation to share classical music, gardening, walking, cooking & swimming. Hampshire area. Photo please to Box No 6722 ☎ ✍

MAKE this easy going yet independent prof lady mid 40s, 5'7", dark haired & living in N. Wilts laugh. She has almost everything she needs - except someone to give her a hug & share her interests in gardening, tennis, antiques, the arts! Can anyone help? Please Reply to Box No 6677 ☎ ✍

DICKENS, Delibes, Dvorak, the Dashwoods of Devon, delicious dinners a deux, disco dancing, daring, debonair & definitely detached (You 40+), decidedly delightful & difficult to impress (Me, Derbyshire), do you dare to deliberate over a reply & photo. Please Reply to Box No 6737 ☎ ✍

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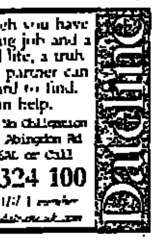

GENTLEMEN

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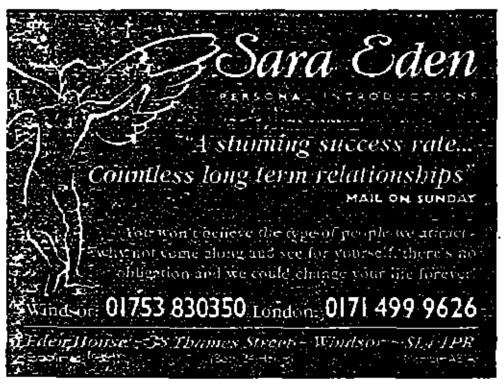

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ATTRACTIVE male, 36, Italian origin, seeks attractive lady similar background 23-35 for relationship leading to marriage. W Mids/anywhere. Photo please to Box No 7086 ☎ ✍

ACHIEVER, own international business, forties, tall, athletic, SW1 based. Interests include performing arts, most sports, auctions, travel, fast cars. Looking for stylish, sophisticated lady with great smile & figure. Photo please to Box No 7162 ☎ ✍

AFFABLE, presentable gent, mid-sixties, N/S, slimmish, housetrained, solvent, tactile, seeks a petite, small-waisted lady with whom to enjoy cultural and tranquil togetherness, *hopefully permanently*. All letters *of* substance answered. Cambridge/ anywhere. Box No 7062 ☎ ✍

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BUSINESSMAN in late 30's, handsome, fit with a wicked sense of humour, seeks attractive female (28-37) to enjoy *socializing, theatre and sporting* activities in Bucks, Herts, Oxon area. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 6916 ☎ ✍

BEAUTIFUL lady sought by N/S divorced man in central London to share enjoyable things in life - theatre, dining, travel (mainly USA) and who knows? If you are over 45, please send photograph to Box No 7093 ☎ ✍

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COMMITMENT without suffocation. Tall, dark, handsome, sporty, arty, 37 yrs male looking for the best relationship in the world, forever!! Your age and circumstances bring opportunities not problems. Tele-message is lovely, as long as photo is on the way, mine by return... Reply Box 7060 ☎ ✍

FAILED matinee idol turned adman, very fit 60 with all original parts. Seeks shapely leading lady. Repertoire must include comedy (no tragediennes) Photo essential for casting. Reply to Box 7025 ☎ ✍

GERMAN Businessman, 37 yrs, 6ft, sporty, n/s, VGSOH, moving shortly to London with own travel company, seeks attractive friendly lady in her twenties/ early thirties, with or without children for friendship and hopefully lasting relationship. Please reply with photo to Box No 6961 ☎ ✍

IF you are N/S lady, Smart, young, circa 60; If you're lonely and tired being so; If you're attractive with colours you can play. If you're alert and to sex, emotions you react; If you like travel, food, talking and can laugh; If you're multifacted with lust & zest *for life*; If financially secure, from ties you're free; if you wish to tread the silk road not to Samarkand. Then the Howdah we shall discard, in romance & love we shall indulge and to Vienna we shall *fly*. Co. Dir, divorced, retired, kind, generous, presentable man WLTM a special lady. Letters + photo + phone no. Surrey & Home Counties. Reply Box No 7126 ☎ ✍

IF you are clever, curvy, seriously funny, mad about sport, love browsing through bookshops, enjoy *folk music as much as* opera, then we should make contact. I am 48, Jewish, tall, professional, athletic (in build rather than ability), willingly suspend disbelief in cinemas, and have a broad range of interests. Photo would be great. Please *Reply* to Box No 6992 ☎ ✍

INTERESTING, intelligent, articulate, attractive, divorced, dependent-free, seriously successful company director, mid 40s, average height, in dire need of an alluring companion *in her 30's with energy, savoir faire* & sufficiently unencumbered to share the pleasures of dining a deux, entertaining, Christmas in the sun, skiing in Jan/Feb & spring/summer's waterborne escapes. Better to drink some wine than none at all & you may even smoke a little if you wish! Photo essential. South. Box No 7127 ☎ ✍

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LOOKING *for* a change of direction? Successful, 6 ft tall, attractive, cosmopolitan, cultured, early 50s man in media WLTM attractive, stimulating N/S lady 38+ to build a future together. Cheltenham area. Go for it! *Photo appreciated.* Reply to Box No 7056 ☎ ✍

MILLIONAIRE businessman, spends time in London and the North West, late 30s, considered attractive, blue eyes, *brown hair, 6' tall*, seeks prospective partner. I have the country *house*, luxury car, plane etc but need to share the good times and *finer* things in life with an attractive slim, intelligent articulate woman 24-35 without ties. I am serious about the quality of my life and relationships but still have a wacky sense of humour. If you are a high achiever with your feet still on the ground and like candlelit dinners, foreign travel, weekends away and champagne in bed I want to meet you. Photo essential *for* reply Box 7149 ☎ ✍

PROFESSIONAL man, 39, London based, who enjoys making the most of life seeks intelligent, attractive woman 28-38. Please reply with photo to Box 7107 ☎ ✍

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SOLICITOR, central London, mid 30's, tall, powerful, goodlooking, very successful seeks gentle woman, early or mid 30's who will love, honour and obey. Letter and photo please. Reply to Box No 7102 ☎ ✍

SOMEWHAT good looking, caring, solvent, humourful, 38, 5'10", sociable, musical & sporty WLTM N/S, intelligent, fun loving lady, 28-38 (London/Kent or elsewhere). Please Reply with recent photo to Box No 7153 ☎ ✍

TALL powerful assertive male, 40, looking for feminine lady for laughter & cuddles. London based. Please Reply with photo to Box No 7066 ☎ ✍

VERY good looking man, just 40, with dark hair and blue eyes, successful, fit, slim build, no ties, is affectionate and very attractive, seeks a very pretty, slender, sporty lady 30-45, who has a sparkle in *her* eyes, is affectionate and has room in her heart for a loving and permanent relationship. Location flexible. A recent photo would be appreciated. All replies will be answered quickly. Reply to Box No 7105 ☎ ✍

WARM, caring, slim, tactile, articulate partner sought by tall, lively, dependable widower (71) interested music, arts, animals, light bridge. London/Home Counties. Tele/photo appreciated Box 7083 ☎ ✍

WORKHOLIC, professional (60) WLTM N/S slim lady in 40's for outings, companionship & distractions. Hants/Sussex area. Please send photo to Box No 7123 ☎ ✍

WORKING male renaissance artist, Indian, 34, presentable seeks female soulmate who wants to make life & love something very special. I am Kent based. Photo please to Box No 6851 ☎ ✍

ZZZzzz Wake up! Club Encounters is open Saturday & Sunday Call free 0800 141 141

IF you have traditional values and aged 23-33, natural looks and believe love can last forever, this 29 yr old happy successful male who is ready for commitment would love to hear from you. Please write with photo and long letter to Box No 6745 ☎ ✍

SIX *foot* 2, eyes of blue, 182 lbs, mid 40's lawyer, - but otherwise well adjusted - sports, arts, epicurean enthusiast seeks lady under 36 to share & give purpose to a full but unfulfilled life. Mids. based. Photo please to Box No 6582 ☎ ✍

SOCIABLE prof man, (*London*) 37 & single again, fit, attractive, into reading, walking, travel, arts, sport, & country pubs. Looking for a slim attractive lady 23-36 to share pursuits & maybe more. Photo ensures reply. Box No 6761 ☎ ✍

TOTAL, absolute loser, 29, nothing to offer, no credibility. Favourite pastime - breathing. Seeks gorgeous woman 23-33 for boxing evening tortoise racing. Photo and letter essential. Southeast based. Reply to Box No 6744 ☎ ✍

SUFFOLK 34 Allegedly handsome professional, 6', enjoys all sports, loves holidays and cheerful company. Seeks active interesting lady for laughter and romance. Please Reply with a photograph to Box No. 6648 ☎ ✍

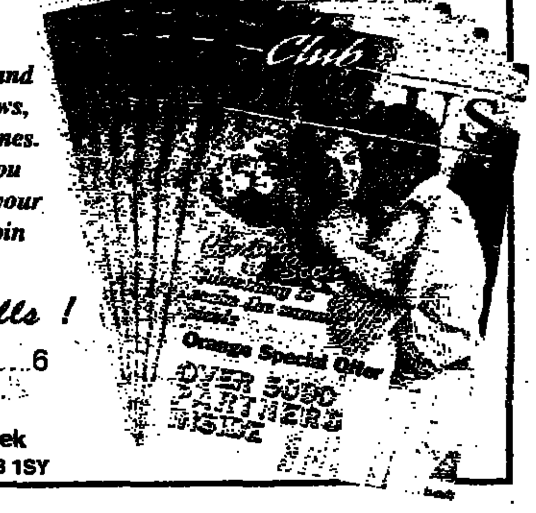
TYNESIDE Charming, irreverent, complicated, sensual, sceptical enthusiast 40, 6', slim, athletic, single with much to give seeks honest, alluring, bright, slim, passionate woman for ever. Photo please. Box No 6670 ☎ ✍

WIDOWER 67, humorous & warm, SE London, just under 6 ft, still has full head of brown hair, smokes, enjoys eating out, reading, gardening. Would any likeminded ladies reply with photo to Box 6770 ☎ ✍

GAY men London/Home Counties seeking long term relationships - ring Significant Others - the gay intro bureau for professionals. 0171 494 0009

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

THE TIMES cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be. We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.



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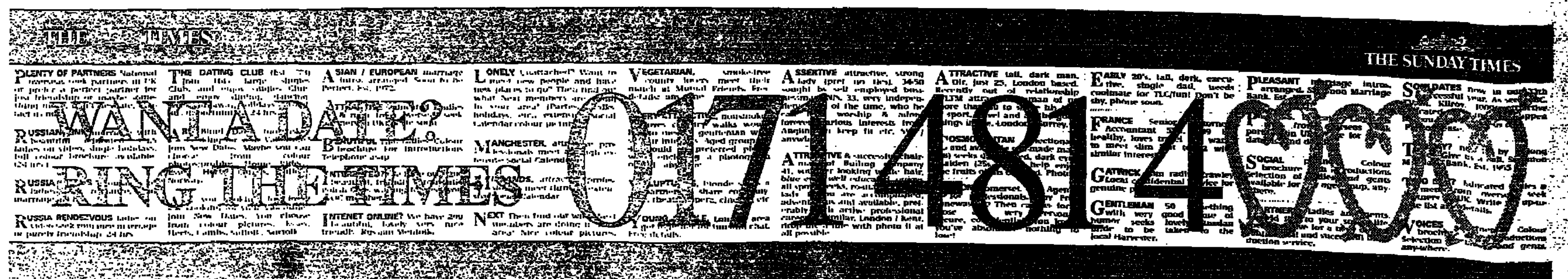

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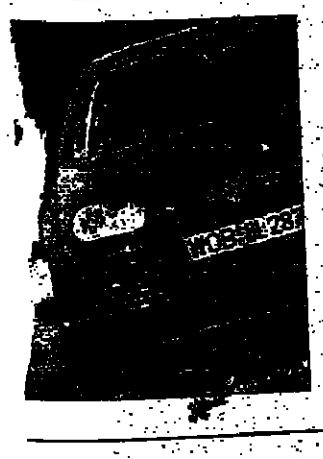


New Golf teed-up to entertain Britain's drivers

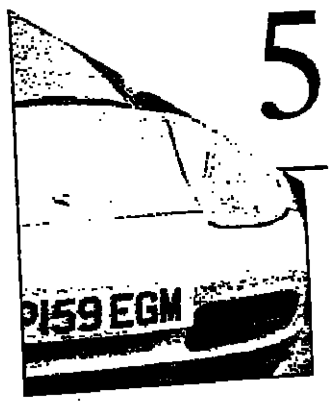
Page 5

CAR 97

SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

Roller man whose other car really is a Porsche

Page 10



PEKING TO PARIS–THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST RALLY

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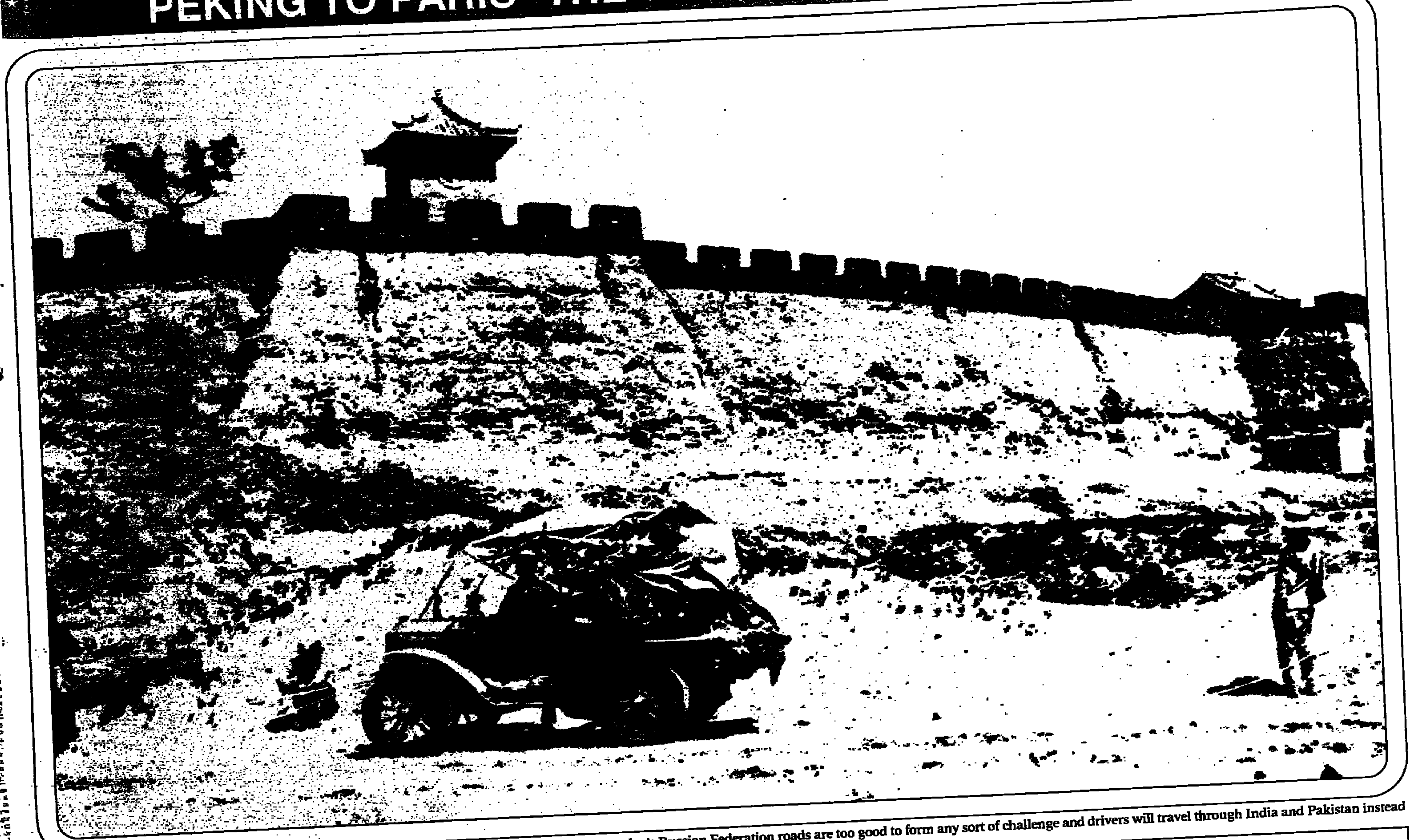

Peking 1907: the original competitors went across Mongolia and Siberia — but the organisers say today's Russian Federation roads are too good to form any sort of challenge and drivers will travel through India and Pakistan instead

Lord Montagu looks forward to the rally of a lifetime

On the high road to China

Next Saturday, I shall be the first car under the starter's flag to lead off the 12,000-mile Peking-Paris Motor Challenge, which celebrates the 90th anniversary of the original race won by Prince Scipione Borghese in his 7,433cc Itala. This event, which has been four years in the planning, must be the most ambitious classic car rally ever held; not least because so many of the 96 entrants — to qualify a car must be of a type announced before the end of 1967 — are pre-1950 models.

Our route will cross the Himalayas via Tibet using the world's highest motor roads, at heights in excess of 17,000ft, and in Nepal alone we shall have to ford 13 rivers, some wider than the Thames at Westminster. In China, Tibet and Nepal, we will drive on gravel roads, often with badly broken surfaces, and sleep under canvas at night, for there are no hotels in that part of the world.

It is, incidentally, the first rally to pass through Tibet and Nepal and the first to cross Iran since 1977, for though it links Peking and Paris, its route overland is entirely different from that followed by the original competitors, taking in India and Pakistan instead of Mongolia and Siberia. According to Philip Young, whose Classic Rally Association has overcome many obstacles to make this marathon possible: "There was little point in trying to retrace the 1907 route, as the Russian Federation roads are too good to form any sort of challenge!"

The 1915 Prince Henry Vauxhall

The choice of cars is highly individual, covering the entire spectrum from a 425cc 1958 Citröen Deux Chevaux to a 1907 La France with a 9.4-litre engine. My own choice is a 1915 Prince Henry Vauxhall from the National Motor Museum. Designed by Laurence Pomeroy Snr and recognised as Britain's first real sports car, it distinguished itself in the pre-First World War trials held in Germany under the patronage of Prince Henry, the Kaiser's younger brother. The joy of this car is that it has good ground clearance and it is constructed along traditional lines so that the repair work is simple — simple enough, I hope, for any Chinese or Indian mechanic. Modifications include a long-range fuel tank, strengthening the suspension, upgrading the electrical system, fitting larger duty wheels and tyres — and two cigar lighters.

Some entries — such as the 1966 Wolseley 24/80, 1960 Morris Minor, 1951 MG YB saloon and 1967 Ford Anglia Estate — would not look out of place on an outing to the supermarket; yet their owners have sufficient confidence in their powers of endurance to drive them across two continents.

Others will cover the 12,000 miles from Peking to Paris in limousine luxury: no less than five entrants will be driving Rolls-Royces, including a Phantom V driven by

Continued on page 3

Rosie Thomas: "The boxing is really making a difference"

Romantic Rosie strikes a blow for the middle-aged

Morag Preston meets an unlikely entrant

Middle-aged mother abandons family to travel halfway across the world. Could this be the bones of romantic novelist Rosie Thomas's next bestseller?

Less than a year before her fiftieth birthday, she is about to embark on the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge. The no-nonsense mother of two has learnt how to navigate, honed her driving skills, and taken up boxing to build up her strength.

"When I finished my last novel, I started moaning to my literary agent that I couldn't possibly write another one straight away," Thomas says. "He asked me what I wanted to do. I said heli-skiing, scuba diving, and most of all, I wanted to walk to Everest." Within a year, she achieved all three.

Inspiration for the rally came from Phil Bowen, her Everest expedition leader. "My kids are ready to fly the nest and I'm looking for a change," says Thomas. "I'm striking a blow for middle-aged housewives."

Thomas did not learn to drive until her late twenties, and now feels happiest behind the wheel of a BMW 325 coupé. In search of something "simple, robust, strong, attainable, and cheap", she and Bowen contacted the Volvo Owners' Club and found a 1966 Volvo Amazon and have spent around £15,000 turning it into a viable set of wheels.

Thomas's main concern is what will happen to the car in the scorching desert heat. Travelling through Tibetan passes at 17,000ft, past Everest base camp on the highest road in the world, the team will be expected to cover distances of between 60 and 450 miles a day.

Putting in more time at the gym has not been a struggle for the fitness enthusiast: "I've just stepped up my programme a good half a dozen notches." For the last six months, she has been going to her gym every day and has taken up boxing to build up her upper body, sparring twice a week with ex-super middleweight John Davis. "Remember, the car doesn't have power steering," says Thomas. "The boxing is really making a difference."

Waiting at the finishing line in Paris will be a gaggle of the author's well-wishing friends. Her husband, literary agent Caradoc King, has been extremely supportive, she says. "He hates roughing it as much as me, but I think he's slightly jealous."

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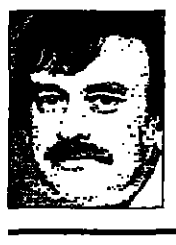
Up to a point, Mr Prescott . . .

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

The road to hell is paved with good intentions, although of course the Government would either have cancelled it or had it built and owned by the private sector. Never mind: much of what John Prescott said last week when he launched the plan to get cars off the roads made perfect sense. The trouble is, how is he going to make it work?

The scale of his attack on the two-car family has been slightly exaggerated, but there is no doubt that the Deputy Prime Minister thinks that households with two cars are a major problem. The facts do not support him. For one thing, only one in five households runs two cars, twice the level of 20 years ago but not showing much sign of growing rapidly now.

The other part of the two-car situation presents a much more intractable problem, for it is clear that the extra car and the congested roads are not in the same place. It may well be that just as many people living in cities own two cars as do in the rural areas, but this does not mean the two cars are being used at the same time.

Among families in cities, the pattern is for children to be taken to school in a car by one partner while the other travels to work on public transport. In rural areas, this use of different transport types is often impossible because there is no, or little, public transport. So both family cars are on the road all the time. This doesn't normally matter, because there is little congestion in the country.

One of the difficulties of the transport debate is that it is conducted dishonestly. There is no intention to deceive, but there is dishonesty by omission. The reality is that the car "crisis" exists only in cities, and mostly in large cities at that: London, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield and the like.

Politicians dare not state this simple fact, for fear that everyone living outside large cities will decide that there is no need for them to change their behaviour. The reality is that the lack of rural pubic transport means they are unable to change their behaviour even if they wanted to.

So we are left with a circular debate in which people confuse car ownership (relatively low in Britain) with car use (relatively high), towns with cities, essential journeys with non-essential ones. Mind you, the last point is easily illuminated: all my journeys are essential, all yours are not.

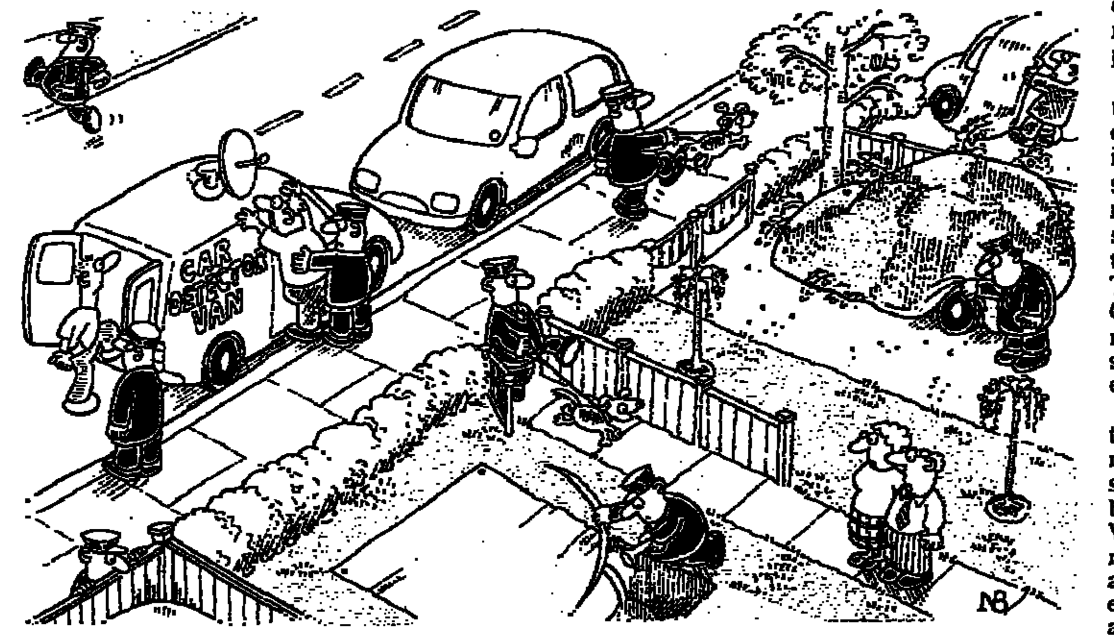
Mr Prescott said when he launched the new policy: "It's no good being tough with motorists and not offering them an alternative. Having two cars is a symptom of the failure of the public transport system rather than a sign of prosperity. I want motorists to be able to make a choice."

Unfortunately there is no word as to how this choice will be provided. Apparently Government ministers on trips abroad have been told to use public transport, to see how foreign cities manage. I can save them the bother: they manage by having public transport owned by the public.

The Conservatives sold off our railways and buses, therefore the only way the Government can influence public transport provision is by further subsidy (no extra money available, says the Treasury) or by nationalisation (unthinkable under new Labour). There is a glimmer of hope in the Green Paper, which talks of a return to public regulation of bus services, but there is no clue as to exactly how this would work.

There is a factor just as important as those above but hardly ever mentioned. We drive children to school because we fear they may be attacked if allowed to walk. Women, especially, drive late at night in cities because they are afraid to use Tubes and buses. So, even if public transport was made available, would we send our children to school by bus? How will the Government make women feel as safe on the London Underground as they do in their cars?

These wider social factors impinge heavily on our habitual use of cars. The Government faces a huge social engineering task if these habits are to be changed significantly.



See the record cavalcade of our motoring yesterdays

Tony Dawe on how the best of British will take a special Sunday run from Coventry

A veteran Leon Bollee, more than 100 years old, the first Mini designed by Alec Issigonis, and electric, gas and solar-powered cars will all take part in this year's Coventry Run next Sunday.

When organisers announced the final plans last week, they revealed the widest-ever range of vehicles for the event which attracts thousands of spectators along its 65-mile route through Coventry, Kenilworth, Stratford-upon-Avon, Leamington Spa and Warwick. The record entry has been achieved with the support of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers which is sponsoring the event to mark its 150th anniversary.

The Institution has assembled a collection of 20 cars to celebrate motoring milestones over the years — and they were often cars which created new niches and turned the motoring world on its head. Like the Mini, the creation of Sir Alec, who invented a box on wheels just 10ft long, or the Range Rover, which elevated 4x4 motoring to a new concept of luxury four-wheel drive cars when it came on to the market in 1969.

A 1925 Austin Chummy, a 1935 Rolls-Royce Phantom and new cars powered by alternative fuels will also take part in the huge and glamorous line-up, proving how British invention and cheery eccentric flair have overcome our shortcomings for assembly line efficiency and ability to match Japanese-style productivity.

The entry of 480 cars and 18 motorcycles has still left many who wanted to take part disappointed. Twenty places have been reserved, however, for readers of *CAR 97* with interesting and historic motors. (More details of *The Times* Twenty and a map of the route will appear next week.)

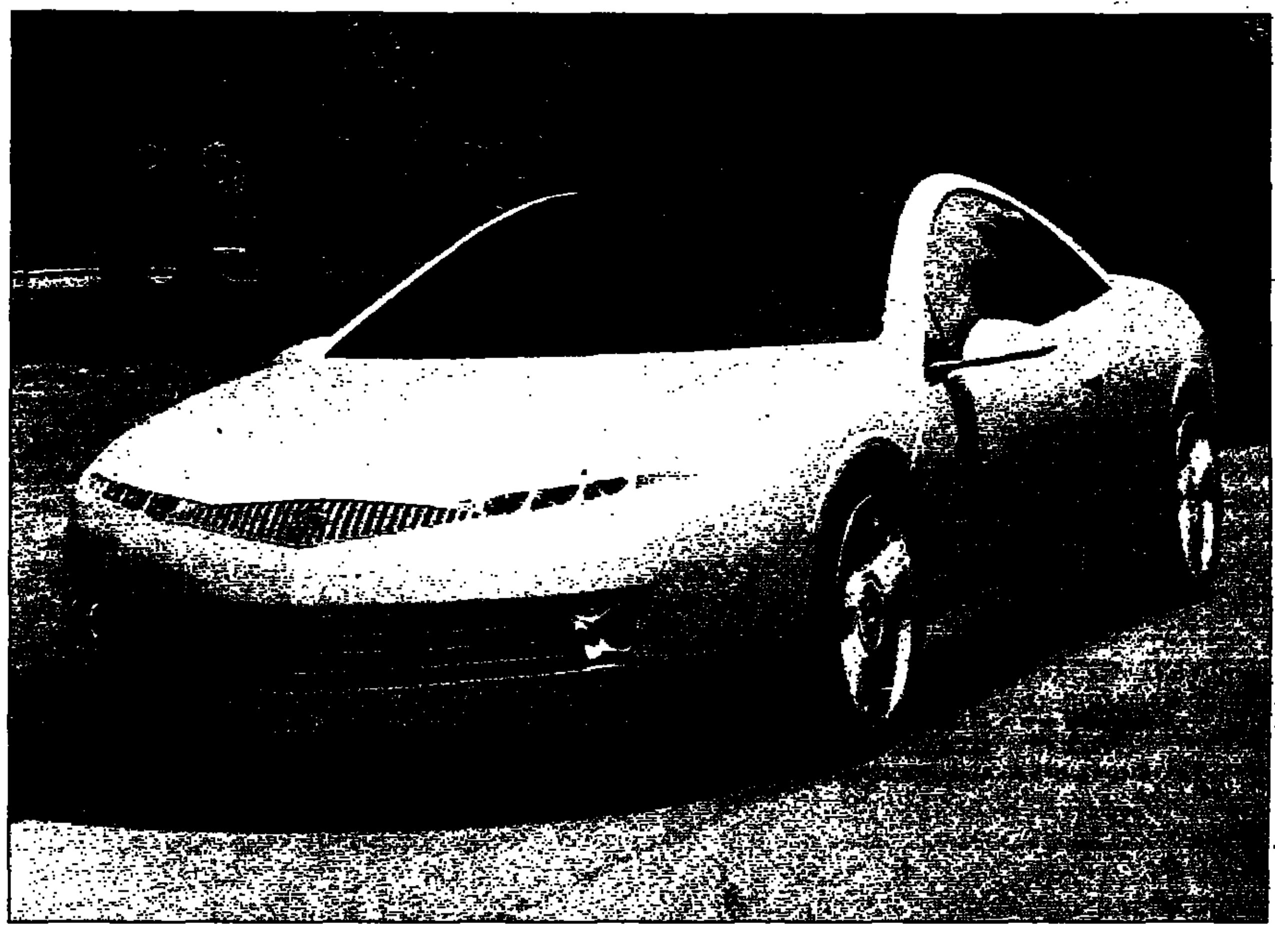
Other special categories include a Midlands' Lord Mayors' parade in vehicles from Coventry's Museum of British Road Transport, a Jaguar Daimler collection and a parade of fascinating vehicles belonging to Institution members.

Martin Hone of International Festival Services, the organisers, says: "The attraction of the Coventry Run is the historical variety that presents itself to spectators, with the development of the motor car unfolding before their eyes in a colourful parade.

"Compare the trundling 1904 Siddeley with the 250mph McLaren F1 of 1997 and you would think they were a million years apart not just one hundred."

Part of a colourful parade of Britain's motoring history

Kevin Eason looks ahead to the Frankfurt Motor Show



The MC2: Ford finally to have found some courage in the spirit of its worldwide boss, British-born Alex Trotman

Codename Cougar adds bite to Mondeo

Look twice at this gorgeous monster: it is not a concept from Italy or one of the supercar makers — it is a Ford, and it could be on our streets within a year.

Ford is on a roll with adventuruous designs for the Ka and the recently launched Puma coupé. Now the Mondeo is considered the next suitable case for a workover and should look something not far from this early effort when it arrives, badged the Cougar. The wraps come off the MC2, as this concept is codenamed by designers in Britain and Germany, at the Frankfurt Motor Show next month.

Everyone will be battling for attention at this show which promises to be one of the most exciting for years. The motor industry is awash with rumours that Rover will finally show us what the new Mini is going to look like, while the British company will be in the spotlight anyway with the official unveiling of its new mini four-wheel drive Land Rover, the Freelander — previewed extensively in *CAR 97* next week.

Freelander is the car the world has waited years for, a compact yet robust 4x4 with style, durability and performance. Rover executives are walking around with smiles as wide as cats who have stolen the corporate cream because all their early soundings tell them that Freelander is going to be a huge success.

There is also a sense of national pride seeping into the design and engineering studios and around the assembly lines because Freelander was designed in-house as Rover ended its 16-year partnership with Honda and was signed off before BMW took full control; it is as British a British car as we have seen for years.

But hats off to Ford, which seems finally to have found some courage in the spirit of its feisty worldwide boss, British-born Alex Trotman. Can this really be the same company that disastrously relaunched the stodgy, staid Escort followed rapidly by that executive dog's dinner, the Scorpio?

If the Cougar looks anything like the MC2, it will turn heads in every high street in Europe.

Claude Lobo, Ford's director of small and medium car design, says his team was trying to bring fresh eyes to the coupé sector, once dominated by the Capri but which has since foundered with the blandness of the Probe. Rivals are not much to write home about either, with the Vauxhall Calibra now looking tired and dated and Peugeot's undoubtedly gorgeous 406 coupé hardly a snip at £26,000.

The market is wide open for Ford with a car based on the Mondeo, which remains the outstanding model in the medium segment. There are cute V6 engines available, while the styling should be enough to attract attention — if Ford keeps faith with this design.

Most interesting is the roof which is a series of five louvred panels, which looks one-piece, but individually pivot to act as a sort of multi-layered sunroof.

Ford has not set a date for Cougar yet, except to say that it will be in Europe next year.

We will have to wait longer to sample some of the technology under the bonnet of the equally radical-looking P2000. It houses the sort of propulsion Ford believes will be used universally in the next millennium as we switch to cars offering better energy efficiency and ultra-low pollution.

P2000 is powered by a tiny, four-cylinder 1.2-litre diesel engine made entirely from aluminium to save weight. The power pack will generate around 70 horse power, but performance will be the equivalent of a 3-litre car of today, say Ford's engineers, because P2000 is so incredibly light.

Widespread use of carbon fibre, magnesium, Kevlar — the man-made composite — and aluminium all help, but P2000 also contains just 200 kilos of steel — a quarter of a car the same size made on current assembly lines.

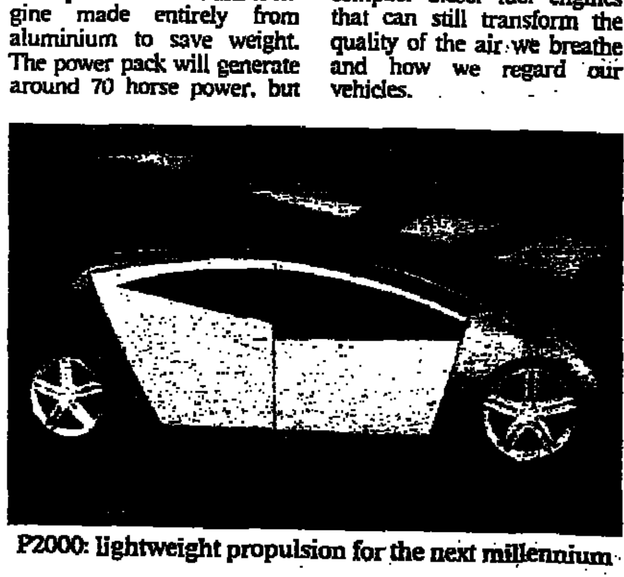
With a total weight just 60 per cent of an equivalent model now, Ford estimates fuel economy will be three times better, holding out the promise of the 100 miles to the gallon car.

The company is also investigating the wide range of alternatives available, and is already well advanced with gas, methanol and ethanol and electric power. Fuel cells offer the ultimate goal: hydrogen broken down to generate electricity with no harmful emissions.

Trotman says: "This is a tremendously important programme, greatly advancing the state of the industry towards achieving breakthrough fuel efficiency and very low emissions transportation that also gives the customer what he or she wants."

In reality, truly pollution-free vehicles are decades away as engineers battle with the traditional bogeys of bulky battery technology and the difficulty of finding systems for which there is an existing infrastructure and which is as convenient as the traditional and trusty internal combustion engine.

That leaves the reality of compact diesel fuel engines that can still transform the quality of the air we breathe and how we regard our vehicles.



P2000: lightweight propulsion for the next millennium

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.
A406 Angel Edmonton. Major works at the A1010 Fore Street.
A1209 Bethnal Green Road. Roadworks between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road.
A237 Manor Road, Wallington, single alternate traffic at the junction with Melbourne Road.
A1209 Bethnal Green Road. Long-term roadworks between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road.
A312 Faggs Road, Feltham. Carriageway reduced to one lane each way due to long term bridge maintenance at Faggs Bridge, north of Staines Road, between 6am and 5pm.
Richmond Park between Kingston Gate and Ham gate, closed for roadworks.
A2 Old Kent Road, New Cross, closed restrictions at various times.
A237 Manor Road, Wallingford. Traffic down to single lane with temporary lights at Melbourne Road junction.

● **SOUTH-EAST**
A34 Berkshire. Contraflow and narrow lanes with 40mph limit between M4 junction 13 and Newbury.
A4 Padworth, Berkshire. Temporary lights at junction with A340.
M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).
A20 Kent. Temporary lights on Maidstone Road, Ashford.
A414 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead.
M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.
M40 Oxfordshire. Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use the A40 and A418.
M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.

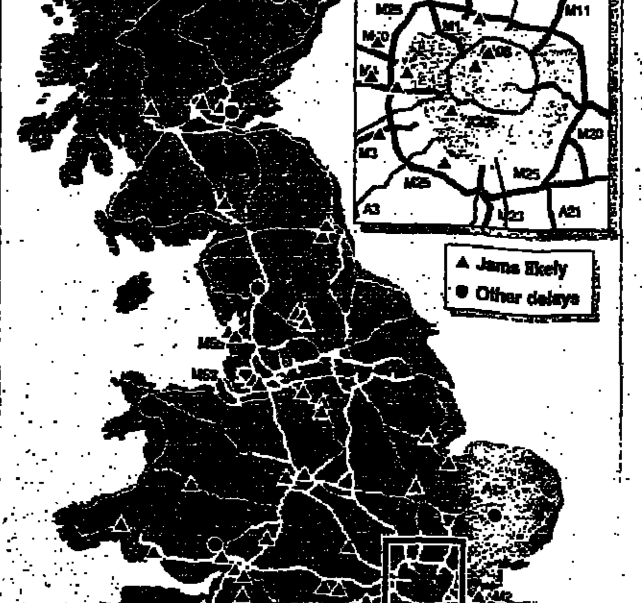
● **SOUTH-WEST**
A38 Old Bedminster Bridge, Bedminster. Major roadworks with lane closures on Bedminster roundabout.
M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth bridge with 50mph limit.
A37 Somerset. Charlton Crossroads, Shepton Mallet, lane closures on all approaches at junction with A361.
A390 Cornwall. Lane restrictions in centre of Truro at the Trafalgar roundabout.
A417 Maisemore Bridge, Gloucestershire. Temporary lights during bridge work.
A303 Somerset. One lane closed east of Chapel Cross between Aldermeads in Wincanton and Hazelgrove roundabout.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**
A1 between Alconbury Hill and Alwalton, Cambridgeshire. Construction work with lane closures, contraflow and 50mph limit.
A134 Stradsett, Norfolk, roadworks at A122 junction.
A52 Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Major roadworks on Derby Road. Expect delays between Sherwin Arms and Priory roundabouts.
A6 Leicestershire. Roadworks between M1 junction 24 and Sawley Island.
A50 Stoke on Trent: major roadworks in the Meir area at junction with A520.
M6 junction 6 Birmingham. Long-term roadworks. Northbound entry slip to M6 North closed at Salford Circus. Diversions in place.
M6 Staffordshire. Contraflow between junctions 14 and 15.
A1101 Mildenhall, Suffolk, closed at Kingsway between Lark Road and Kings Street.

● **NORTH**
A69 Cumbria. Temporary lights on Warwick Road, Carlisle with long delays, especially inbound from M6.
A19 between Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham, Cleveland. Major roadworks with two lanes each way and 50mph limit.
A65 between Skipton and Settle at Coniston Cold, North Yorkshire. Temporary lights following bridge damage,
M1 South Yorkshire. Long-term roadworks with 30mph limit at junction 47. Delays on M1, M621 and A653.
A134 Tyne and Wear. Contraflow on Felling bypass.
M1 West Yorkshire, junctions 43 to 42 Stourton to Lofthouse junction. Contraflow and 50mph limit.
M62 West Yorkshire. Contraflow and 50mph limit, junctions 28 to 29.

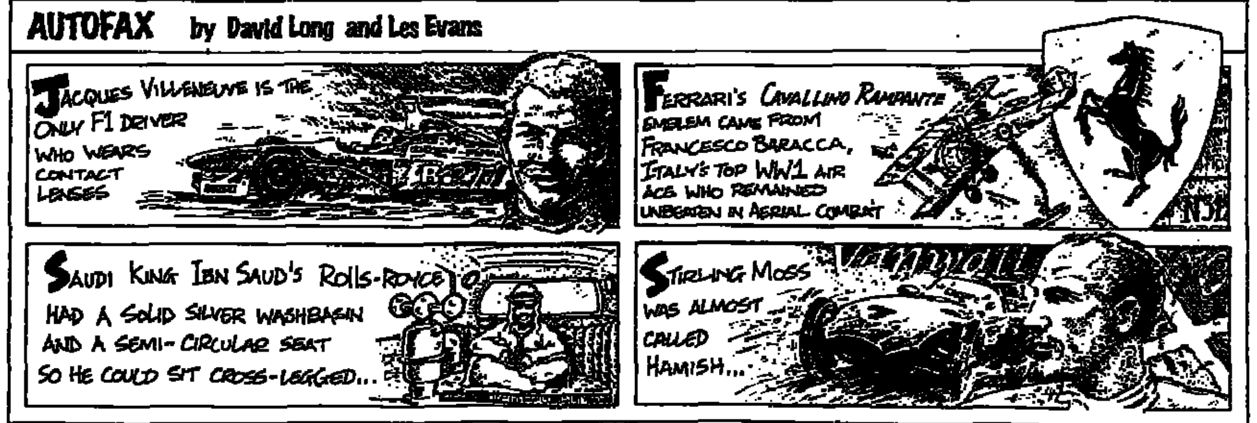
● **WALES**
A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well in Tenerdy.
A449 Monmouthsire. Long delays between Usk junction and the M4 junction 24 at Newport.
A472 Torfaen. Contraflow at Pontypool.
A483 Swansea. Major roadworks between Elba Crescent and the Vale of Neath road.

● **SCOTLAND**
M9 Edinburgh. Long-term roadworks and restrictions on Newbridge roundabout.
A720 Edinburgh city bypass. Contraflow between Lothianburn and Dreghorn. On and off-ramps at Dreghorn closed.



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans


JACQUES VILLENEUVE IS THE ONLY F1 DRIVER WHO WEARS CONTACT LENSES
FERRARI'S CAVALLINO RAMPANTE EMBLEM CAME FROM FRANCESCO BARACCA, ITALY'S TOP WW1 AIR ACE WHO REMAINED UNBEATEN IN AERIAL COMBAT
SAUDI KING IBN SAUD'S ROLLS-ROYCE HAD A SOLID SILVER WASHBASIN AND A SEMI-CIRCULAR SEAT SO HE COULD SIT CROSS-LEGGED...
STIRLING MOSS WAS ALMOST CALLED HAMISH...
NJL

PEKING TO PARIS–THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST RALLY

Five go on a 12,000-mile drive

Continued from page 1

Australian neurosurgeon John Matheson and formerly used by the Queen on State visits to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, while Peter Noble, who has already undertaken several classic marathons in his 40hp Lanchester built for the 1925 New York Motor Show, is entrusting himself this time to a 1955 Bentley S1 Continental.

Transatlantic luxury will be represented by the 5.7-litre 1949 Cadillac Series 62 coupé driven by David Dalrymple, while the 1953 Jaguar Mk VII saloon driven by Derek Radcliff and Nigel Webb recalls the victory of a similar car in the 1956 Monte Carlo Rally.

SEVERAL entrants are driving British vintage sports cars, including a trio of 4½-litre Bentleys; David MacDonald's Speed Six Bentley "Ice Racer", owned by Keith Schellenberg when he was a member of the British bobsleigh team in St Moritz, and a 1,500cc Aston Martin International driven by Gerry Acher, whose co-driver, Bruce Young, is registrar of the Aston Martin Owners' Club.

Walter Rothlauf's choice of a 1928 1.5-litre Type 40 Bugatti is not as bizarre as it seems, for driving a similar car fitted with a pick-up body, Lt Frederic Loiseau made a pioneering 8,000-mile trip across the Sahara and back in 1929.

Another exotic French car entered is the 1930 Delage D8 drophead coupé of Brian Ashby, powered by a 4-litre straight-eight engine, while Dutchman Etienne Veen will drive a 1927 6.3-litre supercharged Mercedes sports car, just emerged from 47 years static display in a private collection.

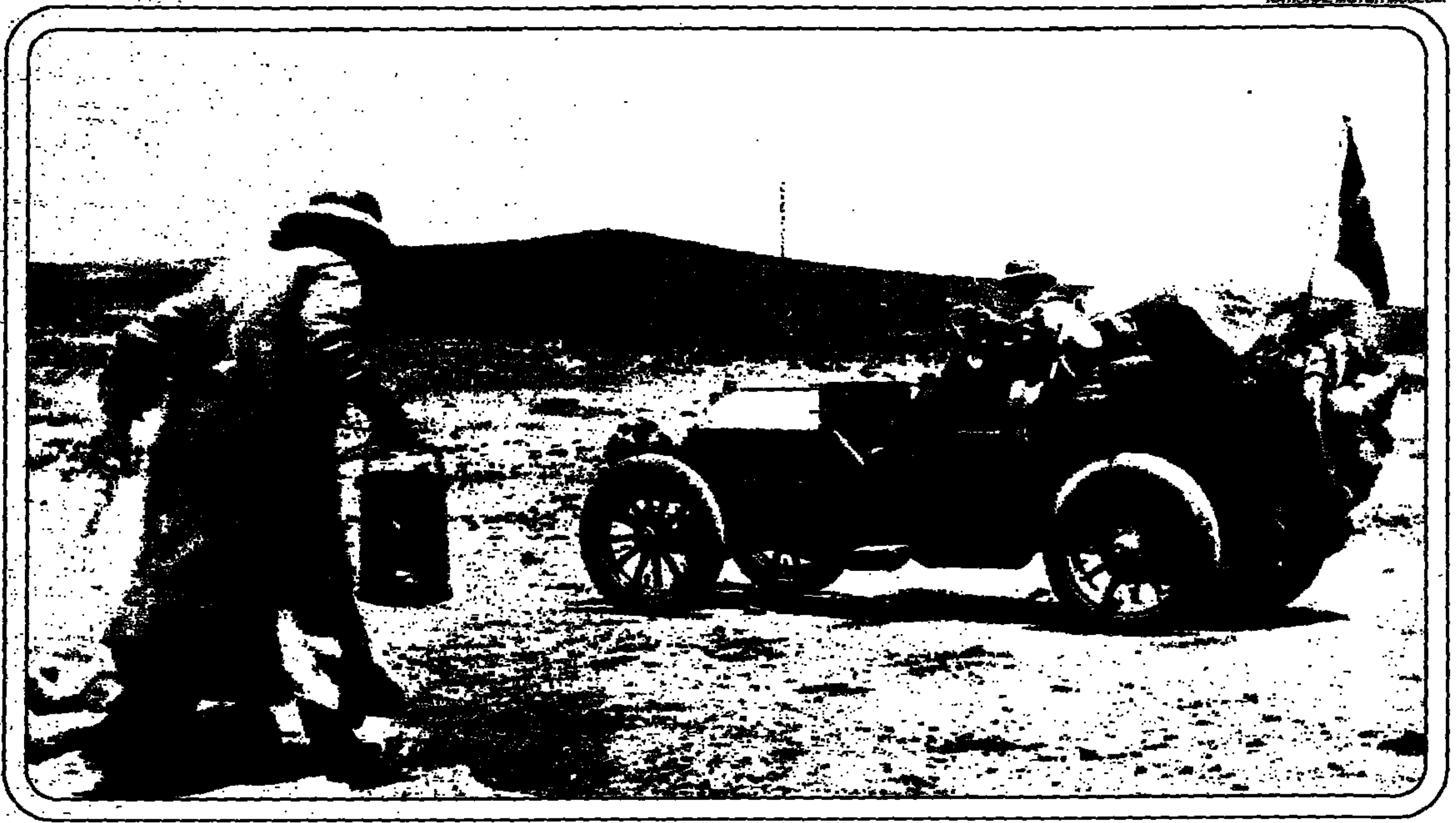
Rare vehicles include the 1930 Stutz cabriolet entered by David Cohen from Canada — one of only three surviving supercharged Stutz — and the only known 1919 5.7-litre Marmon 34 touring car, driven by Charles Kleptz from Ohio. But rarity is not just confined to the exotics: Francesco Ciriminna, an engineer from Palermo, Sicily, is driving a 1948 Fiat 1100, one of only two cabriolet bodies examples of this model known to exist.

THE MOST numerous marque taking part is Ford, with nine entries (ten if you count the Ford built 1942 Jeep) and the oldest entrant, 72-year-old Pennsylvanian Ray Carr, the only person in the world to have driven across America in steam, electric and petrol-powered cars. Indeed, Ray wanted to enter his 1909 Stanley Steamer for Peking-Paris but was turned down by the organisers, who thought that might constitute one challenge too far!

Now Ray will be driving a 1939 Ford V8 convertible, while other notable Ford entrants include Crown Prince Idris Shah of Selangor with a 1932 Ford Model B and experienced classic car adventurer Don Saunders from Washington, who has driven from London to such far-flung destinations as Jerusalem, Saigon, Peking and Sydney.

The cars will travel in convoy across China for the first two days — and then we shall see who has chosen the winning formula. I am quietly confident that, thanks to my co-driver — the museum supervisor and chief engineer Douglas Hill — my Vauxhall will return intact, and whatever happens it will be a great adventure.

NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM



Prince Borghese collects water on the Gobi desert — where direction was by common sense after the telegraph poles ran out — before winning the race by 20 days

REDIRECTED MAIL

AUTOMOBILISM.
THE PEKING-PARIS RACE.
PEKING, June 10.
The start in the Peking-Paris motor-car race was made this morning.—Reuter.

MOTORING journalists had not been invented in 1907, but *The Times* despatched a reporter to follow events. Competition came from *The Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mail*. But *Times*

AUTOMOBILISM.
THE PEKING TO PARIS TOUR.
TOMSK, July 11.
Prince Borghese and his companions have arrived here on their journey from Peking to Paris.—Reuter.

readers were deprived of a first-hand account thanks to underhand tactics by the man from the Daily Mail. He missed the boat to Peking so went direct to a communications station where

THE PEKING TO PARIS MOTOR-CAR RACE.
WARSAW, Aug. 20.
Three of the motor-cars which are participating in the Peking to Paris race arrived here at 2 o'clock this morning, and were accorded a friendly welcome.—Reuter.

messages, often thrown in a bottle *from the car then carried by peasant, camel and donkey, were to be relayed to Britain. As depatches arrived, he is said to* have diverted them to his own newspaper. Meanwhile, *The Times* had to make do with brief reports from Reuters' correspondents along the route.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu on how the original 1907 entrants rose to the challenge of proving what the car could accomplish

"Where are you off to in such a hurry?" a colleague asked journalist Luigi Barzini as they passed on the office stairs at lunchtime on March 18, 1907. "On a tour round the world," replied the special correspondent of the Milan *Corriere della Sera*, and was taken aback when the other man burst into laughter.

But, allowing for a certain Latin exaggeration, that was exactly what Barzini was undertaking: he was to accompany Prince Scipione Borghese on the 40hp Itala which the prince had had constructed specially for a race from Peking to Paris proposed by the newspaper *Le Matin*.

The paper had thrown out the "stupendous challenge" on January 31, 1907, when it accused the organisers of motor races of failing to realise the "supreme use of the automobile ... that it opens up to us journeys hitherto undreamt of", and asked: "Is there anyone who will undertake to travel this summer from Peking to Paris by automobile?"

First to respond had been the Marquis de Dion, doyen of the French motor industry, who replied by special courier: "It is my belief that if a motor car can get through, the De Dion-Bouton will get through ... I take up this challenge here and now."

Bizarrely, the next to come forward was a maker of motorised tricycles named Contal, then came Borghese — who had telegraphed the Itala works in Turin to order his car as soon as he read *Le Matin*'s challenge — and finally there was a former jockey named Charles Godard, earning a precarious living as a stunt motorcyclist and occasional motor racer. He had been provisionally entered to drive a Belgian Metallurgique, but when this maker scratched, he inveigled the Dutch Spyker company into providing him with a car.

Most potential entrants had faded away when a FFr2,000 entry fee was proposed, and it was only Borghese's determination to go ahead that spurred others into following suit. Even so, only five of the original 25 cars entered for the race actually made the start.

The final stages of the race at the Pont de Joinville

When the competing cars — two 10hp De Dion-Boutons, a Contal Mototri, the Itala and the Spyker — assembled in Peking, Borghese was certainly the best prepared. Not only had he already crossed Asia on horse, camel and foot, but he was fluent in five languages, had surveyed the first few hundred miles of the route, his brother Livio was *chargé d'affaires* at the Italian legation in Peking and he had used the Asia-wide network of the Russo-Chinese Bank to garner information on local prices and conditions. But before they could get under way, the contestants first had to overcome the bureaucracy of the Wai-wu-pu, the State Council of the Celestial Chinese Empire, which feared that these "fuel chariots" were surveying routes by which the West could invade China.

The first section saw the contestants struggling over ancient bridges on the Peking plain, then labourers dragged the cars through the Nankow Gorge and over the mountains towards the Great Wall. The first 200 miles took seven days before the cars reached the Mongolian plateau and could run unaided.

Already the Contal tricycle had found the roads too difficult and resorted to the train to cover the first leg. It was abandoned in the Gobi desert when its fuel ran out.

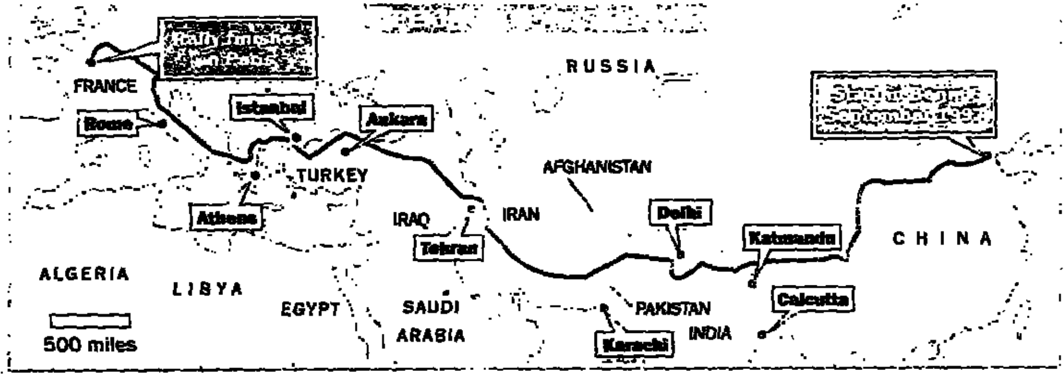
For 800 miles across the desert the other cars followed the telegraph wires that carried the journalists' despatches, their supplies of fuel sent ahead by camel caravan. Then, recalled Barzini, "for hours and hours, with no guide except our common sense, passing over a network of lines and paths, leaving them from time to time if they seemed to be taking a wrong direction for our purpose, and often running with no path at all, we crossed hills, plains and valleys."

Several times the Itala nearly sank in bogs and was only rescued with the aid of wandering Mongolians, but eventually they crossed the Russian border and arrived in Siberia, where the Chief of Police handed them documents from St Petersburg granting free passage through the Russian Empire.

Much of the Siberian highway system had fallen into disrepair since the building of the Trans-Siberian Railway, and at Lake Baikal the road — and bridges — had become totally impassable. So Borghese obtained permission to drive on the railway track. When it became necessary to use the old road because a train was approaching, a wooden bridge collapsed under the weight of the Itala, almost crushing Borghese, Barzini and their mechanic Ettore. A band of workmen righted the car and it continued its journey, now running through the *taiga* — the interminable forest that covered great tracts of Siberia. Then came swamps of liquid mud and, after Omsk, "our car began its rapid flight over the steppe, which lay before us like a calm green sea".

Later, a rear wheel collapsed, its wooden spokes weakened by the muddy roads. A local wagon-builder made a replacement entirely by hand and eye with his hatchet, and it proved strong enough to carry the car to journey's end.

The Itala was now days ahead of the other contestants and the last 2,500 miles from Moscow seemed almost an anticlimax: "A confusion and chain of visions passed like a flash before our eyes during this giddy flight," wrote Barzini. And when Borghese reached Meaux, 30 miles from Paris, he told the assembled journalists: "I assure you that such a journey requires more patience than daring." The other cars arrived 20 days later, their journey summed up by the French magazine *Omnia* as "a fine romance where the automobile perhaps plays the leading role".



'I only meant you to read it'

Jack Crossley on how a couple's flight of fancy has turned into the real thing

STUART MACDOWALL

Nigel, Paula and Arnie — "as tough as that Hollywood guy"

Nigel Broderick had never turned a competitive wheel in his forty-something life when his wife Paula spotted some blurb on the Peking-Paris marathon.

She was killing time flipping throught of an in-flight magazine en route for Spain. "This looks interesting," she said. Surprised that there could ever be *anything really interesting in an in-flight magazine, he started* reading, more out of politeness, really. But he ended up devouring every word and then said to his wife, also fortysomething and also never having driven a car in anger: "I think we ought to do this, Paula."

"Yes, dear," she said. It is not recorded whether she patted him tenderly on the knee, but she changed the subject. Such holiday madness was not to be encouraged. Dreams of competing with folk like Lord Montagu *of Beaulieu and other motoring toffs would never survive back in real life. Real life being the* making and distributing of Ecoflow magnetic fuel-saving devices on an industrial estate at Saltash in Cornwall.

But the bug nibbled its way into Nigel's imagination. He could be spotted scribbling notes *on odd bits of paper, restaurant* napkins, backs of envelopes. Back in Cornwall, Paula had eventually to face up to startling fact that he *was* going to drive the 12,000-mile marathon — and *she was going to navigate.*

And they were going to do it in a 1967 Anglia estate, price £4,000, previous owner, rally enthusiast David (now Lord) Steel.

Nigel has had "*every nut and bolt*" double checked and now it's known as Arnie "because it's as strong as that tough guy Hollywood star".

Next priority was making sure Nigel and Paula, who have two teenage sons, were fit for the job. They called on a fearsome ex-marine, Rod Lamb, who specialises in turning pear-shapes into people-shapes. *Three days a week, at 7.15am, Rod turned up at the Broderick home near Liskeard to inflict a* solid hour of pain on their previously neglected bodies. He also put them on a strict diet, but when I asked Nigel if this included a ban on alcohol, he said: "If that was on the diet sheet, I must have misread it."

Nigel is down from fifteen and a half stone to fourteen and a half. Paula says she is "ready for anything".

Anything will include *ten nights under canvas in Tibet, crossing seven or eight rivers in Nepal, some where the bridges are reported to have been* washed away in floods.

"We gave Arnie and ourselves 5,000 miles of hard testing in the Targa in Spain, then replaced all the bits that had taken a beating: exhaust — manifold, suspension bushes, shock absorbers. Made sure that things like the petrol, radiator and oil caps were chained to the body. Tried to think of all the silly things that might go wrong."

Arnie the Anglia was shipped to China in July, crated up with another competitor's Bentley.

"I was glad to get rid of it," Nigel said. "It meant I could get a good night's kip and not have to worry about *if there's anything else we can do to it.*"

Kevin Eason on some of the other Brits taking part in an epic of motoring and endurance

Into the unknown in the tracks of history

The trouble with being a girl on an epic voyage *is simply* not knowing what to wear when you are crossing a desert one minute, fording a river the next.

For Francesca Sternberg and Jennifer Gillies, the only all-woman team in the rally, that *decision is tougher than you think.* For while the men *are stripped and* ready for action in *blistering* heat and dust, the women will *have to be* covered head to foot as *their* car crosses Iran, which has a strict dress code as a Muslim regime.

There is also that other tricky problem which doesn't really trouble chaps quite so much out in the open. Willing Gurkhas from Nepal are digging latrines for the competitors at *camp* sites in Tibet — after that, the women are on their own when nature calls.

But Jennifer and Francesca are made of stern stuff, like their 1962 Volvo Amazon, one of the sturdiest cars in the race.

Francesca is one of Britain's top equestrians, while Jennifer runs her own fashion business. While *this is their first attempt at a rally* on this scale, the route and its hazards will be just as unknown to the rest of the competitors.

However, some bring vast experience to the event — such as Brian Ashby and his son, Duncan, who *are taking a lovely* 1930 Delage. Brian and Duncan competed in last year's *Monte Carlo* Challenge when the Delage had to cope *with* freezing temperates, though it finished eighth in its category.

Richard Williams's company restored and prepared a 1964 Aston Martin DB5 for Tony Buckingham and Simon Mann. The donor vehicle cost just £1,500 and was *little more* than a wreck when it arrived at *the workshops in Cobham, Surrey. Williams's engineers* modified the engine *to run on 70* octane fuel — a weak mixture which the cars will encounter across *much* of China — and added roll and *crash protection* plus a new suspension with extra *travel*, higher ground clearance and full waterproofing. Special wheel hubs and tyres should withstand the buffeting *of rocky* terrain, while there is also a *twin fuel system* which gives the big English *sportster* enough fuel capacity for 550 miles.

There are 39 entrants from Britain, with 25 nations represented in total, including 13 from the United States.

Francesca and Jennifer: Iran will demand a complete cover-up

Richard Clark and Kenneth Hughes are both British but will be *driving a handsome* 1948 Buick Special. *Clark, the car's owner, is a* banker who now lives in *Singapore* while Hughes is a banker who has worked in Hong Kong for the past 20 years. Between them, they *should* at least make a fist of *communicating* with the locals: Clark is *fluent in German* and French with smatterings of Arabic and Chinese languages, while Hughes is fluent in Swahili, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi and Arabic languages.

Meanwhile, Philip Young, the rally organiser, will be keeping watch over his flock of competitors from a fleet of 2.5-litre diesel Vauxhall Frontera 4x4s, donated *by Vauxhall, which will ferry two doctors and two paramedics. There will also be a giant truck, loaded with food, and five heavy-duty 4x4s* to drag the hapless to safety if the need arises.

Young says: "The only word for the rally is epic: the first through Tibet and Nepal, the first through Iran in 20 years and the highest at 17,000 feet *near* the base camp of Mount Everest.

"A modern version of that 1907 rally will obviously not be so remote or difficult. All the same, this is a vast distance over incredibly *difficult terrain* in cars which were *not really built* for the purpose. Nobody *has* attempted anything like this for cars of this type and age since that first race in 1907 when the gauntlet was thrown down to cross two continents. *Whoever gets home first will have done a magnificent job.*"

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VW Golf MkIV: after two generations of bland, it looks and feels better than ever, and if middle-market buyers were waiting for something to come along and give them a nudge in their wallets, here it is

Ignore the hype, Volkswagen's new generation shows it class on the road, says **Helen Mound**

So old, it is one of the most venerable names in motoring, as familiar as traffic lights and the lollipop lady on our streets. But the Volkswagen Golf shows no sign of fading away. Instead, after 23 years in production, the fourth generation of this remarkable car is better than ever.

Bigger, curvier and more powerful than those tiny boxes on wheels which were launched in 1974, the Golf is pitched into one of the most competitive sectors of the market where upmarket Escorts jostle with Audi's A3 across a spectrum of models that have been revamped or relaunched.

It is also the toughest section of the market in which to be distinctive — a talent which used to be the Golf's sole territory. You could spot an original MkI model at 10 miles, so square were its lines, though it was surprisingly nearer in size to the current Polo than the big sister MkIV, due in British showrooms from December.

The good news is that, after two generations of bland, the Golf looks and feels better than ever. If middle-market buyers were waiting for something to come along and give them a nudge in their wallets, here it is at last.

MkIV has great handling, performance and styling. The first delivery will include a range with eight engines and five trim levels — but Volkswagen says that is only three-quarters of the potential line-up. A cabriolet, four-wheel-drive hatch, saloon and estate versions have yet to be revealed.

It is no secret that the Golf effectively shares the same floorpan and underpinnings as the Audi A3, one of the hits of the year, and the soon-to-arrive Skoda Octavia. All part of the Volkswagen group's strategy to cut costs by sharing expensive-to-develop floorpans around its sister companies: VW, Seat, Skoda and Audi.

That could conceivably lead to uniformity throughout the range, so it is not surprising how much like a sophisticated, refined and more costly Audi this people's wagon feels.

VW offers a wider choice of engines than the Audi, with three- and five-door prices likely to start at £12,000, £2,000 less than the entry-level A3. And VW claims there are differences — the Golf has the sporting appeal while the A3 is more comforting. They are not significant differences though.

The soft plastic finish on the dashboard, quality fabrics, and exceptionally high standard of equipment puts the new Golf in a class above its predecessor and conspicuously close to the A3, supposed to be in a slightly higher segment of this compact market.

I drove the cars with the new 20-valve engines, already familiar in the A3: the normally aspirated 1.8-litre in 125 brake horse power guide and the turbocharged 150bhp 1.8.

On paper the extra 25bhp doesn't appear substantial, but when it's underneath your right foot and, given a light-pressure turbocharger, it makes a marked difference.

GOLF Mk IV

Engines: 1.4 16v, 75bhp; 1.6 16v, 100bhp; 1.8 20v, 125bhp; 1.8 20v, 150bhp; 2.3 20v V5, 150bhp; 1.9 diesel, 68bhp; 1.9 turbo-diesel, 90bhp; 1.9 turbo-diesel, 110bhp.

Performance: 1.4 — 0-62mph, 13.5 secs; top speed 106mph; 33mpg (in town). 1.6 — 10.9 secs; 117mph; 26.9mpg. 1.8 (125bhp) — 9.9 secs; 125mph; 24.1mpg. 1.8T — 8.5 secs; 134mph; 26.1mpg. 2.3 V5 — 8.8 secs; 134mph; 20.9mpg. 1.9 (68bhp) — 17.2 secs; 100mph; 40.9mpg. 1.9 (90bhp) — 12.6 secs; 112mph; 41.4mpg. 1.9 (110bhp) — 10.6 secs; 120mph; 43.4mpg.

Prices: 1.4E 16v three-door, £12,000; 2.3 V5 three-door, £19,500.

The 125bhp version feels breathless and lethargic compared to the turbocharged car which has keen Jack Russell-like tendencies. For equally feisty performance, but a touch of comfort, VW has developed the 2.3 V5, also with 150bhp, derived from VW's VR6 engine. Hardened GTi drivers will be pleased with how the Golf GTi has matured, but those who have matured themselves will find the V5 easier to live with. Handling is pleasingly tight, steering equally responsive, but the ride is more forgiving than the GTi.

If even GTi performance is still not enough, then those who prefer their Golfs with more spirit will have to wait until next year for the 2.8-litre VR6 to arrive in Britain. No doubt there will be a rush for this front-of-the-grid performer. Meanwhile, what is there for the money in the latest incarnation of Europe's favourite car? Answer: a lot. VW has added features to the Golf that medium-sized hatchback drivers rarely see: wipers with automatic rain sensors, for example, rear view mirrors that automatically reduce the glare from following cars, and factory-fitted satellite navigation systems are all in the catalogue.

> None of its 23 years and sheer familiarity shows any longer

Safety includes driver and passenger airbags, anti-lock brakes and a new feature which will attract a lot of attention among the thirty-somethings with their young families: rear bench anchors which allow a child seat to be fixed rigidly. The Golf is the first car to comply to new European Community Isofix standards which help parents decide how to fit baby seats that really will keep baby safe.

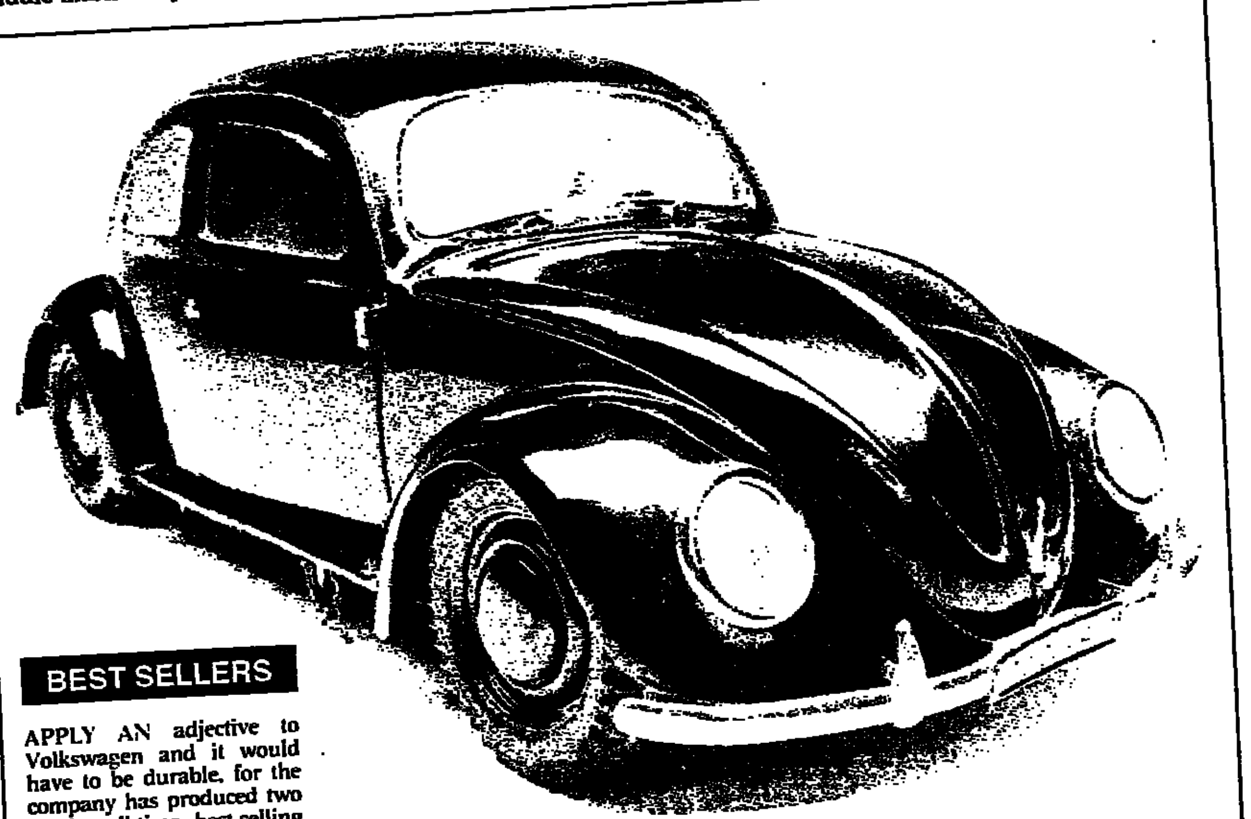
That is the sort of attention Volkswagen wants because a lot rides on this new-for-old motor. If you had seen the press launch, you would have discovered just how hard the Germans were trying to sell this car to journalists from all over Europe.

Volkswagen launched the car under a Big Top — yes, a circus with palm-reading, body-painting, basketball competitions and T'ai chi lessons. More than 300 of us sat bemused as parachutists landed among us and a cabaret danced around the dining table.

Why? Frankly, I have no idea how a night in the Big Top was going to convince me that the Golf was a good car better than an hour at the wheel, but all those nice chaps in suits in marketing obviously thought it was one way to blow the launch budget.

In between, they assailed us with descriptions of the car which ranged only from "brilliant, innovative and wonderful" — even, somewhat astonishingly, "mythical" — all the way to "perfect". Come on: it's good, but nothing is that good.

Take it from me and ignore the inevitable hype — you just need to take a look at the new Golf. None of its 23 years on the market, none of its sheer familiarity shows any longer. Golf MkIV is a cracking motor and will carry on the production legend which has already made the car one of the best-selling of all time.



BEST SELLERS

APPLY AN adjective to Volkswagen and it would have to be durable, for the company has produced two of the all-time best-selling models. When Adolf Hitler decided he wanted a business to put Germany on wheels, he told Ferdinand Porsche to build him a Volks Wagen — people's car.

Clearly, Hitler was thinking he would be putting the rest of the world on wheels as well at some point, though not entirely due to an export push.

Porsche invented the car which became the familiar air-cooled, rear-engined Beetle, a model of simplicity and reliability, and postwar production soared. Output has now passed 21 million and keeps climbing, with production in South America still feeding the legend of the world's best-selling car.

To produce one best-seller is commendable, to produce two is remarkable, and the Golf at first never seemed to have any pretensions to legendary status. Yet in 23 years, they have kept coming and coming: the car has been the best-selling in Europe since 1984 and more than 17 million have rolled off the vast production lines at Wolfsburg in Germany — virtually a one-company town dedicated to Volkswagen. Even now, a new Golf leaves the factory every 26 seconds, steaming up to the record figure established by its predecessor — if the MkIV captures the public imagination so that millions more join the Golf club.

■ The world's top-selling cars (in millions, latest available figures): Volkswagen Beetle (above) — 21; Toyota Corolla — 20; VW Golf — 17; Model T Ford — 15.5; Ford F-Series Truck — 14.9; Lada Riva — 13.5; Ford Escort/Orion — 12; Nissan Sunny — 10.2; Mazda 323 — 9.5; Renault 4 — 8.1

Definitely notta proppa way to name a mota

Want to admit that you own a car called a Nippa? No thank you, says **Kevin Eason**

Perodua Nippa: obviously somebody went to work on a bus with the cutesy name of Hoppa or Shoppa

The marketing man who has to sell this one has his work cut out: the latest car to enter Britain is . . . wait for it . . . called the Perodua Nippa.

I'd thank you for not giggling at the back there. This is a serious report and those of you not grown up enough to accept that can turn to page seven right now.

The Perodua Nippa, is . . . the Nippa is . . . all right, you win. It is a ridiculous name and I pity the first buyer who has to tell his chums he is the proud owner of a car which definitely has the most bizarre handle in the British motoring world.

Perodua is a Malaysian company founded five years ago, using technological help from Daihatsu, and has the same ambitions as other manufacturers from the Pacific Rim region, Kia, Proton, Hyundia and Daewoo among them. The company has 25 British dealers from Torquay to Edinburgh.

It seems that Perodua had a choice when deciding what to call its little car in Britain. Obviously somebody went to work on a bus called the Hoppa or Shoppa or any of those dreadful, cutesy names they get these days, and hit on Nippa.

To business though, and the Nippa is a reworking of Daihatsu's Mira, so no surprises under the bonnet or in the styling. This is the car which was built for A to B functionality, the supermarket cola instead of the real thing.

Under the bonnet is a three-cylinder, 850cc power plant whose 42 brake horse power is enough to propel a vehicle weighing just 675 kilos to a top speed of 84mph. Not startling, but this is the car to nip — or, indeed, nippa — to the shops in or pick the kids up from school. Price will be a consideration for anybody considering amusing the neighbours: at £5,886 and £6,521, only the Kia Pride (£5,919), Fiat Cinquecento (£6,500) and Lada Samara (£4,845, but you can't buy them any more) get near.

But Nippa? Nippa! You would have to pay me to own a car with that name.

IN BRIEF

Fast-track results

■ SHREDDED nerves could be a thing of the past for L-test students engaged in the battle of wits with the theory examination. Pupils prepared to pay £25 instead of £15 can have their papers marked immediately, with results available in as little as an hour. The Driving Standards Agency says that the while-you-wait service will be available at 22 test centres — and if you botch it then you have to wait a minimum of three days before a resit. Oh, and you can keep your theory paper as a memento of the day. Isn't that lovely?

Corolla is on a roll

■ TOYOTA'S latest Corolla has been judged to have the lowest leasing rates in its class by Dial Contracts. The 1.3 Sportif three-door led the Ford Escort 1.3 Encore, Mazda 323 1.3LXi, VW Golf 1.4L and Peugeot 306 1.4L. The Corolla was also top of class among five-door cars in the 1.3 to 1.6 category and among diesel estates, a boost for the Japanese firm launching its new baby.

■ YET MORE men in suits: the prudish Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has refused to issue a number of R-plates which might cause offence to we shrinking violets of the roads, including R4 NDY (you got it: Randy) even though bundles of drivers have offered £10,000 and more for the registration this month. No explanation given, but surely the best ploy is to sell the plate for the highest price, then let the rest of the world know exactly what sort of dipstick is behind the wheel of a car adorned with such an unappealing moniker.

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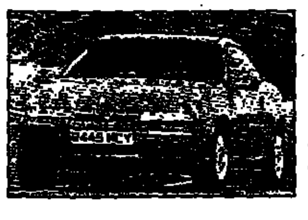
CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

SPARE PARTS

Saab leads by a head

■ PROTECTION from whiplash is promised by a head restraint fitted to Saab's 9-5 model, just coming to British showrooms. The system was developed by Saab with Delphi Systems — both part of the General Motors empire. Called Pro-tech, the system is mechanical and triggered by a pressure plate in the seat back. On impact, pressure from the driver presses on to the plate, which pushes the head rest up and forward before the head snaps backwards, providing what engineers call "a catcher's mitt". American data shows rear impacts cause 25 per cent of injuries annually, which should be reduced among drivers with Saabs fitted with Pro-tech.



■ SO FAREWELL the Calibra (above), the car that redefined the Essex car and moved it to Luton, home of Vauxhall. The company is running out the coupé with a special edition SE9 version in flame red with leather seats, spoiler and alloy wheels. All for £22,495 if you want to be among the last of more than 238,000 Calibra buyers persuaded by its slightly naff styling.

Voyager finally reaches Britain

ROAD TEST

Car names can be descriptive, pretentious, confusing, irrelevant or just plain daft. Chrysler got it exactly right when it called its big multi-purpose vehicle Voyager. True, it doesn't float, so sea voyages are not recommended, but it is an evocative name that smacks of stately, long-distance travel to far away places which may themselves have strange sounding names. It even has a compass, *writes Stuart Birch*.

Chrysler is not modest about the Voyager. It describes it as the world's best-selling people carrier and "the vehicle that created the MPV boom", but it has taken 14 years to reach Britain. Worth waiting for? By and large — and large is the word for this piece of wheeled real estate — the answer is yes.

I have been living with a 3.3-litre LE version (there is also the Grand Voyager, which is even bigger), which is arguably good value at £23,695 plus £900 for leather seats. It also came with £300 worth of very dark "sunscreen glass" for the rear windows and tailgate window, which from a distance makes it look like a van, transport for a rock star or as if you have something to hide; possibly all three.

The big V6 engine is all torque, but with 156 brake horse power nothing special in the way of power. On paper the performance looks no more than adequate, but in action the Voyager feels lively enough. It is a bit of a gas guzzler in town at just over 16mpg, but the combined figure of 23mpg looks better. Four-speed automatic transmission is standard and the selector lever is steering column-mounted.

On main roads and motorways, this big MPV's ride is excellent and it bowls along easily with occupants enjoying a high-level, panoramic view of the world. However, on roads with poor surfaces such as country lanes, ride quality is unimpressive and the body does not have the rigid feel of current European MPV's such as the Ford Galaxy/VW Sharan or Renault Espace. Handling and roadholding are adequate while the Voyager is easy to manoeuvre.

But it is in terms of space and equipment where the Voyager really scores. Making a voyage in the Voyager is a spacious experience for seven people, although luggage room is then somewhat limited. The rear bench seat has "easy-out rollers" — nothing to do with hairdressing, everything to do with pushing the seats into storage when removed. There are plenty of seat configurations to choose from. The long wheelbase Grand Voyager provides useful extra luggage space.

There is a big sliding door on each side, protected by child locks, particularly important when a youngster might step from the vehicle without the warning to oncoming traffic of a conventionally opening door.

Standard equipment on all Voyagers includes air-conditioning, anti-lock brakes, airbags, electric front and rear quarter windows, while the LE version has seven seats with powered adjustment for the driver's alloy wheels and cruise control.

Standing 1,740mm high with an overall length of 4,733mm (5,070mm for Grand Voyager) and a width of 1,950mm, the Voyager has considerable presence. Vehicles for the UK market are assembled at Graz, Austria and come with three year/60,000-mile warranty.

Voyager: considerable presence, but the ride can be bumpy

VOYAGER 3.3LE

Engine: 3.3-litre V6 for 156bhp at 4,700rpm, four-speed automatic transmission.

Performance: 0-62mph, 11.8 secs; top speed 109mph. Economy: average 23mpg.

Equipment: Air-conditioning, cruise control, 10 speaker-stereo.

Price: £23,695 on the road.

Auctions in high gear

■ THIS is the start of the busy season for motoring auctions, ranging from the practical to the exotic and from London to Sacramento.

■ Aug 31 — Robert Stevens, Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire. 01565-725863.

■ Sept 8 — Brooks, Paris. 0171-585 3000.

■ Sept 9 — Sotheby's, Musée de l'Automobile, Geneva. 0171-493 8080.

■ Sept 13 — Christie's, National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire. 0171-839 9060. Kruse, Towe Museum, Sacramento, USA. 00-1800 968-4444.

■ Sept 15 — AMA, Pembroke Road, Stocklake, Aylesbury, Bucks. 01296-339150.

■ Sept 16 — Phillips, Powderham Castle, Kenton, near Exeter. 01392-439025.

■ Sept 21 — RTS, Royal Norfolk Showground, Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich. 01603-505718.

■ Sept 24 — H&H, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, Derbyshire. 0161-747-0561.

■ Sept 25 — Brooks, Olympia, London. 0171-228-8000.

■ AN executive saloon that comes loaded with equipment. Rover's 800 offers smooth and powerful motoring and oozes that very British automotive charm of the classic doctor's car, according to the *CAP Black Book*.

Immaculate, it can make a bargain buy and £9,000 should secure a 1995 M-reg 827 Si Fastback on 30,000 miles with alarm, leather upholstery and air-conditioning.

■ A PORSCHE 944 can be had for well under £15,000, but avoid "bitty" examples with a dubious past. The 944 S2 is a 3-litre machine with a top speed close to 150mph and a 0-60mph time of six seconds. Expect to pay £13,000 for a 1989 F-reg S2 cabriolet with 100,000 miles. Such mileage need not cause concern provided the car comes with a full service history.

FORECOURT

■ A ROLLS-Royce can make a bargain buy for the motorist able to afford the running costs. High mileage examples of the Silver Spirit — provided the car comes with an authentic dealer service history — will always find a buyer. Anxiety over repair and insurance costs are not deterring those who seek ultimate luxury on a budget. A 1983 Y-reg Silver Spirit can be had for under £16,000, while a 1986 D-reg Spirit with anti-lock brakes sells for around £20,000.

The Spirit luxuriates in the 6.7-litre engine which is almost impossible to damage, much less destroy, given that most Royces (they are never called "Rollers" by those who care) use more than a fraction of the power they offer.

USED CAR BRIEF

ALFA ROMEO 145
Wedge-shaped Alfa Romeo 145 was launched as a three-door hatchback three years ago. The diesel-free, front-wheel drive range includes 103bhp 1.6-litre, 1.7 litre 16-valve (129bhp) and 2-litre, 16-valve worth 150bhp. A year after the 145 arrived, its bigger brother, the five-door 146 was launched. For drivers seeking Escort-sized motoring, the 145/146 offers a stylish alternative

✓ **GOOD NEWS**
Sensitive to worries about the frailty of Italian car build, Alfa Romeo launched the 145 with three-year/60,000 mile warranties, eight-year anti-rust back-up and three years for the paintwork. Even base cars get power steering, electric front windows and remote central locking

⊘ **BAD NEWS**
Interior trim in cars that have covered above-average mileage. Beware too many rattles and squeaks. Check that the gearchange is smooth and does not need extra elbow power to get into certain gears, and that all electrics work

LOOK FOR
Alfa Romeo authorised service histories. If not, the various mechanical, rust and paint warranties could well be deemed to be no longer valid. Check for paint bubbles, colour fading, and that bodywork panels around the car are true

AVOID
Cars missing the master key. If the master is missing from the ring, you could be looking at a bill of anything from £600 upwards to replace it, because it is an integral part of the car's security system

△ **SAFETY**
Look for cars fitted from the L specification upwards) with anti-lock brakes. The 145 benefits from a driver's-side airbag but check the car's history and that a problem with the airbag, which led to a dealer recall, has been fixed

INSURANCE
(Cover from AA Insurance, 0800 444777): on a 1994 145 1.7 16v three-door costs a 55-year old professional, male or female, in Winchester with full no claims £216 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year old male, with one year no claims in south London, pays £1,405, a similar female £1,316

PARTS
(Prices supplied by Glassmads, 01932 823823): clutch, £146; catalytic converter, £448; full exhaust, £377; rear damper, £59; front brakepads (axle set), £60; alternator, £235; starter motor, £246; radiator, £124

£ **PRICES**
Expect to pay £7,750 for a 1994 M-reg 145 1.6ie three-door, £8,900 for a 1994 M-reg 145 1.7 16v three-door, £8,900 for a 1995 N-reg 145 1.6ie three-door, £8,500 for a 1995 M-reg 146 1.6ie five-door, £10,000 for a 1995 N-reg 146 1.6ie L five-door and £11,750 for a 1996 N-reg 146 1.7 16v five-door

OVERALL
The three-door 145 looks good and, for many, driving a car with the Alfa badge on the bonnet and steering wheel is reward enough. The 146 five-door is a more practical buy, roomier and more useful for motorists looking for an Escort alternative with some Mediterranean flair. The 1.7-litre engine makes most sense though the 2-litre gives exceptional performance

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Porsche Carrera 4 'S' July 97, Ocean Blue/Grey Leather, Climate, F/E/Seats, F/Leather, 18" Wheels, E/S/R, R/Alarm, Radio/CD, 400mls, VAT Qualifying ——— £72,995
Ferrari 456GTA April 97, Blue Le Man / Tan Leather, Full UK Specs, 2,000 m/s VAT Qualifying £149,995
BMW M3 Evo II Coupe Manual, Nov 96, Astral Blue, Silver White Leather, M-Tech, Seats, 4 Head Rest, Rear Spoiler, Climate, Tracker ——— £37,995
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96P 355 Spider Rosso/Crema, 3,500miles ... £103,995
96N 355 Spider Rosso/Crema, 5,000miles ... £102,995
96N 355 Spider Rosso/Nero, 5,000miles ... £102,995
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93L 348 Spider Rosso/Crema, 10,000 miles ... £68,995
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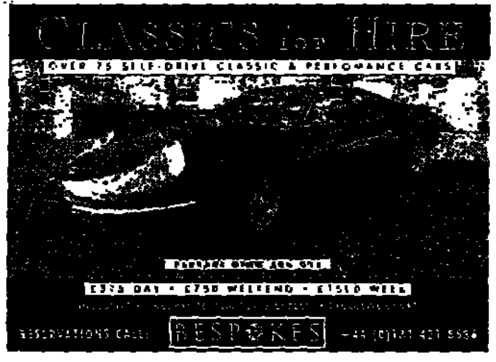

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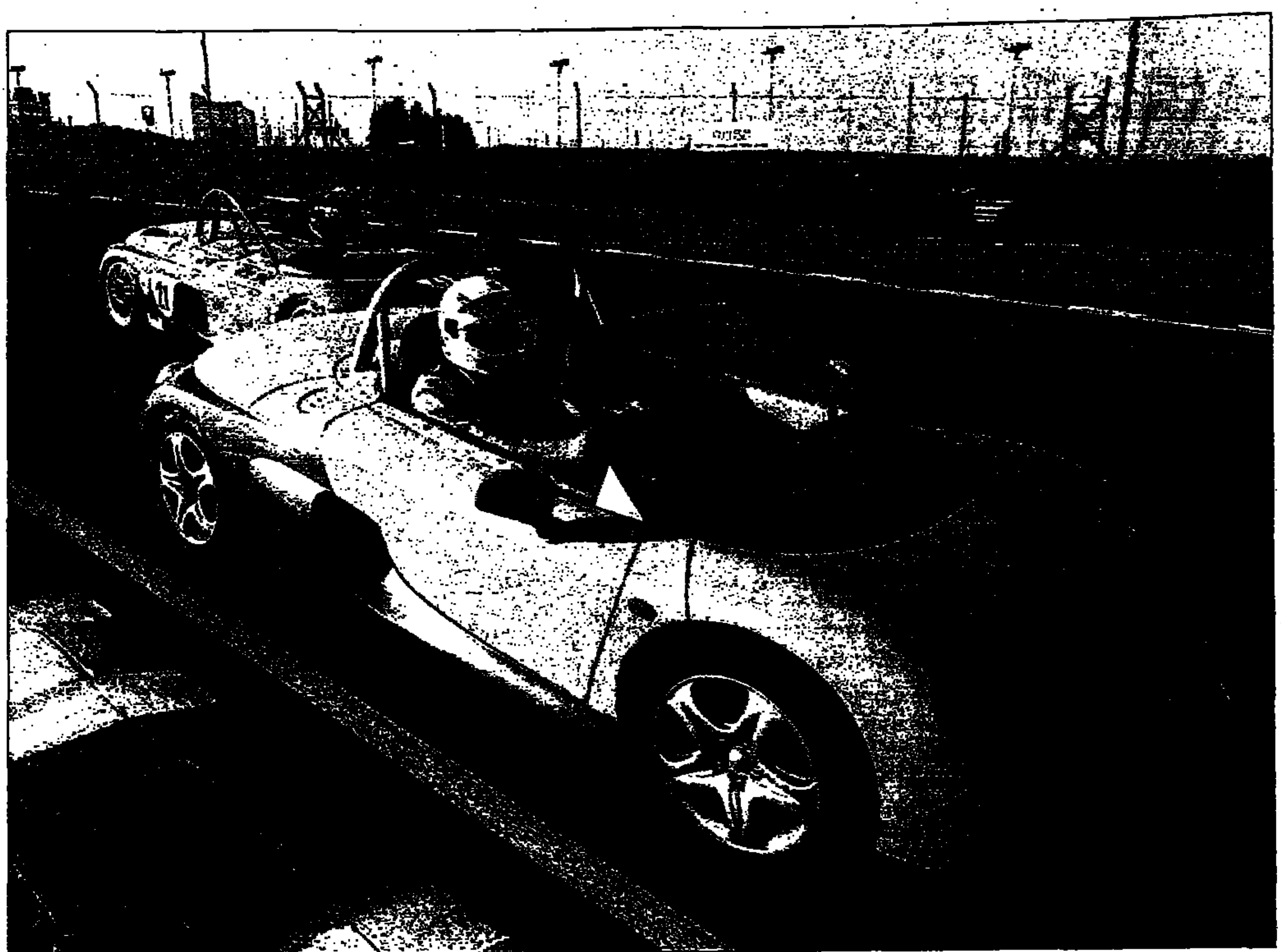
It looks a seriously mean machine, but the Renault racer also comes in a roadgoing version, says **Stuart Birch**


The roadgoing Spider: "Lower the ride height, take off the windscreen and swap the tyres for slicks and the two cars would be very close"

Nick Hart, 27-year-old race driver and Howard Nicholson, 57-year-old regional sales engineer, have one thing in common: a liking for spiders. Or, to be more exact, the Renault Sport Spider.

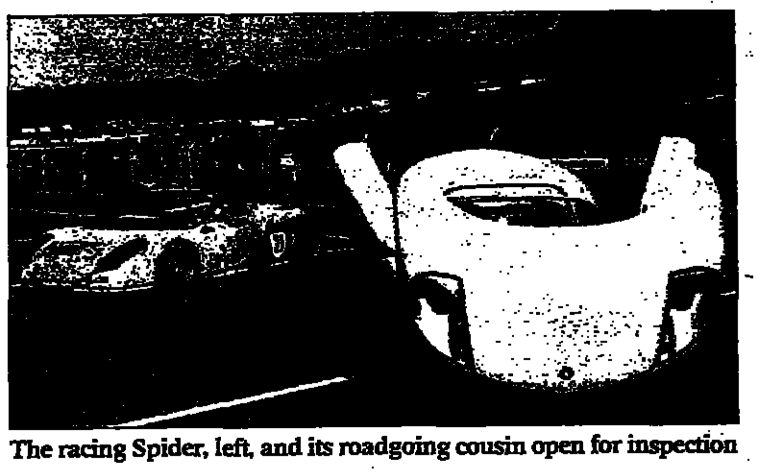
Nick races the rapid, raucous, road-clinging machine in the *Renault Sport Spider Cup* championship: Howard drove one for a day and decided his clients would be shocked if he turned up in it for meetings instead of his 1.6-litre Toyota Corolla.

The remarkable thing about the £26,000 lightweight Spider, a total sports car with few pretensions to *comfort* — no roof, windows, carpets, heater, radio, power assistance for the non-ABS breaks or power steering and a luggage locker filled with tonneau cover and puncture repair kit — is its ability to whirl around a race track at convincing speeds but present no problems to a driver who spends most of his travelling time in a saloon on motorways. It may look it, but this is not really a mean machine.

Even so, invited by *CAR 97* to sample the aluminium and composites, mid-engined Spider, Howard — a specialist in commercial vehicle body design with CVR of Rochdale — approached it with a hint of trepidation. He had driven nothing like it before. First, the doors open vertically, so there is the chance of a cuff on the chin. Once on board, the driving position can be improved via adjustable pedals.

Settled in a huggy bucket seat, the Spider's 150bhp Megane Coupé 16v engine ticking over, Howard was ready for action, accelerating gently, becoming used to the close-ratio gearbox, direct steering and brakes that need a hefty shove. It wasn't quite like setting off for the M25 in the Corolla. But within 10 minutes he was tackling corners with a gusto that his Toyota — in which he covers 45,000 miles a year — would not appreciate at all. After 15 minutes, the exhaust found its full voice as he used the car's power.

With the early morning sun gleaming on the Spider's brilliant yellow paintwork, the temperature climbing and the roads traffic-free, Howard Nicholson was having fun: "I feel part of the car. It is noisy, basic, hardly a rep's car — but I want one!"


The racing Spider, left, and its roadgoing cousin open for inspection

Nick Hart's is even more basic; a single-seater, it has suspension with as much give as Mike Tyson's flexed muscles. It weighs about 40kg less than the road car, has an extra 35bhp, a six-speed non-synchromesh gearbox, Renault-Alpine A610 supercar brake calipers and fat Michelin slicks. Nick has consistently been in the top three in the Spider Cup, driving for Apex Autosport.

"My car is not really that much different from a roadgoing Spider. Both share immense stability, suspension is via double wishbones and they have rear wheel drive to satisfy the purist. Even in the wet, grip is immense. On the track you can get these cars oversteering to an angle of almost 90 degrees — and they virtually always come back on line thanks to the tyre capacity."

So I took the roadgoing Spider to Brands and asked him to prove the point. It was time for crash helmets and serious motoring: Nick even removed the driving seat cushion: "I like to sit as low as possible."

A quick warm-up lap, then on lap two, past the pits at 105mph, brake for Paddock Hill Bend, plunge down it like a roller-coaster with a hint of oversteer, sweep up towards Druids at 85mph, change down to third and then second gear, breaking hard to 45mph, a squealing 180 degree turn, down the hill towards Graham Hill Bend, the engine rev limiter cutting in briefly, up to third then fourth gear reaching 95mph before Surtees bend, into third, rush through Clearways and accelerate to 105mph once more past the pits to do it all over again.

All this in a car that I'd used as my regular transport for a week, including a trip to the supermarket where it gathered an immediate crowd. Street cred? This car has street cred, track cred *and* supermarket car park cred.

On a good day, Nick's race Spider laps Brands in about 48 seconds: "I reckon the roadgoing Spider would take another four seconds. But lower the ride height, take off the windscreen and swap the tyres for slicks and the two cars would be very close."

Nick makes the point that such driving is for tracks only: "Drive like that on the road and you'd be locked up — and quite right. But it does indicate the level of dynamic safety designed into the car. Driven responsibly on the road, it is very safe indeed; you are unlikely to get into difficulties — but if you do it is very easy to recover."

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'Do you like the Silver Spur? My other car's a Porsche'

Vaughan Freeman enjoys a politically incorrect, but very upmarket, status

ANDREW HASSON

Decisions, decisions: Freeman ponders the agonising choice between £145,000 of supreme Rolls-Royce luxury and £34,000 of fun driving in a convertible *Porsche*

Coffee or tea? Toast or cornflakes? Porsche Boxster or the Rolls-Royce Silver Spur? Oh, the heartache and agony of those first decisions of the day . . .

John Prescott certainly would not have approved of the two cars parked all too temporarily outside the Freeman household, between the clutter of our worn Volvo estate and the neighbours' Maestros, C-reg Saabs and company Mondeos.

By some freak of bad diary management, the Spur and Boxster arrived on the same day, posing the sort of dilemma most motorists would swap their Granny to face: what do I drive today?

All modern cars get you from A to B and are fairly safe and comfortable. Even so, the choice of modern cars is wider than ever, and the newest Rolls-Royce and the first genuinely new Porsche for 18 years represent opposite poles of that motoring variety.

The Boxster is a lithe 2.5-litre two-seat, two-door sports convertible with blinding pace and restricted luggage room. But it is all about fun, attitude and driving down country lanes with the top down and a grin on your face. Judged in terms of pence-per-fun, it is an absolute bargain at £34,000.

The Silver Spur is a 6.7-litre, 18-foot behemoth: a wafting, cosseting automotive world apart, which vacuum packs its occupants in a world of leather, wood and carpeting to create a hermetically sealed *£145,000 worth of marvellous attention* to detail and opulence.

Which to drive? The decision was made initially by the need to transport the family of four from Brighton to Swansea. Despite six-year-old Benjamin's plea that he co-pilot the Boxster with dad while mum brought sister Emily in the Rolls-Royce, the Crewemobile was the obvious choice.

Five luxuriant hours later we were in South Wales. No longer is the clock the loudest thing in a Rolls-Royce. Today air-conditioning makes the most noise, except when drowned out by back-seat passengers giggling at their favourite video on the in-car player.

There was a time in the 1980s when envy, accompanied by cowardly scratches on the paintwork, seemed the main emotion inspired by a Rolls-Royce. Perhaps times have changed, for wherever we went the Silver Spur drew truly appreciative glances. In Swansea, parked in a terraced street where it cost as much as three or four of the houses, neighbours admired its quality and its workmanship, without sneering or jealousy.

The trip home was equally relaxing, another 250 miles in blazing heat, purring along in a car that is so deceptively quick despite its size, that a blip on the throttle sent it surging down the motorway, in contrast to town driving, which is serene progress.

All so different from the manners of the Boxster. From our front door to the pillarbox is about 800 yards, but when there is a Boxster outside and a sun in the sky you have to drive with the roof down to post a letter. Most mornings nothing could be done until each family member had had their 15-minute outing in the passenger seat, taking a quick trip over the Sussex Downs.

The makers of Prozac would be put out of business overnight if all those taking it were instead offered daily doses of Boxster. Its potential performance is way over the legal top, but no matter. Sprinting on a clear road to the speed limit or enjoying the car's fluid handling ensures driving the Boxster is sheer joy. For the ultimate indulgence on hot days, the roof can stay down while the air conditioning works full-blast to keep occupants cool.

The ingenious, all-electric touch-button mechanism means the roof can be lowered and raised in only 12 seconds, without any risk to fingernails, and flash showers need not threaten that open-top delight. With the roof up there is plenty of *headroom for the tallest driver*, although visibility to the rear is severely restricted.

Now that two-car families are politically incorrect, especially when one car returns on overall fuel economy of under 18 miles to the gallon and both are capable of twice the legal speed limit, the downside of opting for a Spur and a Boxster is that any such two-car family will probably have to hide in an isolated garage to avoid those who know what is best for us.

The upside for those with the money, self-confidence and good sense to plump for these two cars is that they probably represent between them all that is best in motoring comfort, fun and technology. Now the dream is over, the cars are gone, and it's back to the Volvo. At least that means one fewer choice every morning.

SILVER SPUR

Engine: Turbo-charged 6.7-litre V8, computer-controlled automatic transmission

Performance: 0-60mph in 7.9 seconds; top speed 140mph. Fuel consumption, 12.4mpg in town.

Equipment: Video player with *twin screens*, *fridge*, Wilton carpet, picnic tables, cocktail cabinet.

Price: £145,000.

BOXSTER

Engine: Mid-mounted 2.5-litre, flat six-cylinder producing 204bhp.

Performance: 0-62mph in 6.9 seconds; top speed 149mph. Fuel consumption — 23mpg in town.

Equipment: Electric fold-away roof (optional aluminium hard top), electric windows and heated mirrors, dual airbags.

Price: £34,000.

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94M GOLF 1.6 CL, Metallic Black, 36K, PAS, ESR, CDL, Airbag
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